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Part I, p. 1-66

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION
OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES

EDITED BY
PHILIP DOWELL
ARTHUR HOLLICK, WILLIAM T. DAVIS
PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

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[Issued January 17, 1917]
THE NEW ERA PRINTING COMPANY
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James Joseph Reynolds

¹ Deceased July 11, 1915.

² Appointed July 29, 1915.

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¹ Presented at the meeting of the Association May 21, 1915. See PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 5: 116. Oct. 1914-May 1915.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

At the regular meeting of the Association held on January 17, 1914, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that in view of recent additional information having been received in regard to certain local historical events the president be and is hereby authorized and requested to appoint a committee, of which he shall be a member, to investigate and report upon the accuracy of all dates and events entered upon the historical tablet in the Borough Hall in accordance with the report of the committee of the Association as printed in the PROCEEDINGS, vol. I, p. 83, November, 1906.

The president appointed as members of the committee Edward C. Delavan, Jr., chairman, Ira K. Morris, and William T. Davis. Mr. Delavan and Mr. Morris declined to serve and George W. Tuttle and Charles G. Hine were subsequently appointed in their places.

Messrs. Delavan and Morris, on account of their large contributions to Staten Island history, were invited to give the committee the benefit of their researches on the historical dates and events under consideration. Mr. Delavan met the committee and greatly aided it in its work. We beg to acknowledge our indebtedness to him. Mr. Morris was unable to meet with the committee at any of its sessions.

The committee has given careful attention to the historical matters referred to it, and reports as follows:

Under date of May 14, 1906, Hon. George Cromwell, president of the borough, wrote to the president of the Association, inviting the Association to make suggestions for the inscriptions on the then proposed historical tablet to be installed in the Borough Hall, and stating that "any suggestions on the subject from your society will be highly appreciated." To this letter the president of the Association replied, under date of May 15, that he would take pleasure in appointing a committee who would thereafter communicate with the borough president directly on the subject.

At the regular meeting of the Association on May 19, 1906, the

president announced that he had appointed a special committee, consisting of Ira K. Morris, William T. Davis, and Dr. Arthur Hollick, to confer with Borough President George Cromwell, on his request, in regard to historical dates and events to be placed on a tablet in the Borough Hall. Mr. Morris at that meeting read a tentative list of such events. The action of the president was approved, and the committee was authorized to confer with Mr. Cromwell with power to determine what events it would be desirable to have inscribed on the tablet.²

A meeting was held by the committee at the borough president's office on July 2, 1906, and on September 19, 1906, a meeting of the committee was called to take action on the report in relation to the tablet, at the borough president's office.

At the regular meeting of the Association on November 17, 1906, Mr. Morris, on behalf of the committee, submitted a report including a list of historical dates and events selected and approved for inscription on the tablet. This list was printed in the PROCEEDINGS of the Association (1: 83. Oct.-Dec. 1906). In the files of the Association, with other papers relating to the subject, are two typewritten lists prepared by the committee: one, a preliminary list, has a great many more dates than those printed in the PROCEEDINGS, and the other, selected and approved after conference with the borough authorities, is in substantial agreement with the list as printed in the PROCEEDINGS. (Several recent dates, apparently not determined at the time when the typewritten copy was prepared, were fixed when printed, and two slight changes were made in the text relating to two events.)

It was ascertained by our committee that no supporting data or explanatory remarks were filed with the report of the 1906 committee, and that the inscriptions on the tablet differed very materially from those approved in the report as printed.

Twenty-six leading dates were given in the report and seventeen were placed on the tablet; but only three precisely as recommended. We are informed, however, that the list was forwarded to the borough president as printed in the PROCEEDINGS.

² PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 1: 56. Jan.-May, 1906.

Mr. Edward C. Delavan, Jr., who questioned the accuracy of some of the dates on the tablet, was given a hearing in the matter by our committee. He placed at our disposal a very complete list of references to documentary records concerning Staten Island, and other historical data involving a large amount of research among sources not hitherto readily available, which we have freely used.

In view of the circumstances above mentioned it was thought best to make an independent examination of such authoritative documents as we could find bearing on the inscriptions, particularly official documents and contemporary accounts, for data on which to base our report. This has been done, and appended to this report are many extracts from original sources and numerous references, in order that members of the Association, and others, may readily refer to the original documents and verify the accuracy of the present report. It is believed that a number of important records are referred to therein which have hitherto been unnoticed, or at least that little use has been made of them. It should also be said that, in the opinion of this committee, no inscription open to reasonable doubt or liable to misconstruction should be inscribed upon the tablet.

The work of drafting the report was, by request of the committee, undertaken and performed by Mr. Tuttle.

The first date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1609. Discovery of Staten Island by Henry Hudson.

It is inscribed on the tablet exactly as selected and approved by the committee of 1906. We have not heard its accuracy questioned and have found satisfactory proof thereof. We think it the right statement in the right place.

The second date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1613. Settlement of Oude Dorp by the Dutch.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved "1613. Settlement of Oude Dorp by Dutch."

We know of no evidence whatever to warrant this statement. We find in reference to 1613, that "none manifested a disposition to settle here until the spring of 1613" (Morris 1: 25). In Wilson's Memorial History of the City of New York, in the table of dates, occurs: "1613. Trading camp established on Manhattan Island," and in O'Callaghan's Register of New Netherland: "1613. Huts constructed on Manhattan Island, and the yacht Restless built there." It has recently been decided (by authorities in the matter) that Manhattan was not settled until May 1626. (Rep. N. Y. Commercial Tercent. Com. 80. 1914.)

As to Oude Dorp, the statement is made that "The summer of 1641 witnessed the commencement of the building of Oude Dorp." (Morris 1: 32.)

It may be seen, on consulting the appendix to this report, that at this time (1641) Cornelis Melyn had been made Patroon and had settled on Staten Island (1).³ We know of no evidence to connect his colony with Oude Dorp, although he may have located not far away, as he was "to go upon the point of Staten Island where the maize land lay," and soldiers were to be placed there to signal to the fort at New Amsterdam when vessels arrived (2). The few settlers previous to 1662 lived on farms or bouweries and we find little evidence of village life. In 1662 Director Stuyvesant wrote that Melyn's lands had been abandoned for seven years (3).

Stuyvesant writes in 1664: "A hamlet not yet named was begun on Staten Island about two years ago, and has now about 12 to 14 families of Dutch and French from the Palatinate; it lies about half an hours walk from the Narrows" (4).

On January 28, 1664, a Court of Justice was established at the recently begun village on Staten Island (5).

Grants of land made in 1668 refer to lots on the hill to the east of the Town (6), while in 1685 a survey of these same lots de-

³ References to authorities, numbered as above, may be found at the end of the report (see p. 20).

scribes them as being to the east of the Old Town (7), and other lots to the west are described in patents dated 1685 and thereabouts as laid out formerly for lots at the Old Town (8). These grants definitely locate Old Town, in agreement with the location of the "hamlet not yet named" as described by Director Stuyvesant.

In 1667 Governor Nicolls issued a warrant to the inhabitants of the plantation on Staten Island, and a number of other records are to be found indicating that there was only one village on Staten Island at this time (9). The above mentioned hamlet can therefore be identified as The Town, or the Old Town as it became upon the founding of other towns.

We conclude from the records relating to this matter, extracts from which are appended:

That Staten Island was first colonized in 1639 by de Vries (10). This colony was destroyed by the Indians in September 1641 (11), however; but soon after, in November 1641, Cornelis Melyn, who had obtained a grant of all of Staten Island except the bouwerie of de Vries, settled thereon (12).

That the village afterward known as Old Town was begun about 1662 and that it was first known as The Town or The Village. That the name Old Town was probably not used until the laying out of New Dorp about 1670, and that Oude Dorp was only the Dutch expression for Old Town or Old Village.

Mr. J. H. Innes, author of *New Amsterdam and Its People*, and who is an authority on the settlement of New York and vicinity, expressed the opinion some years ago that Old Town was not built until 1662 or 1663 (*City History Club Leaflet No. X: 24. 1908*); and Mr. Edward C. Delavan, Jr., in 1910, wrote a *Documentary History of the Permanent Settlement of Staten Island* (not printed) substantiating this view.

The third date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1624. Local Government established.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved "1624. Civilized Local Government recognized."

J. J. Clute in his *Annals of Staten Island* (p. 14. 1877) states: "The country was organized into a province, a few settlers were sent out, and a form of government was established, with Peter Minuit at its head as Director; this was in the year 1624. In the same year, and probably in the same ship with Minuit, a number of Walloons arrived and settled upon Staten Island; this is the first settlement on the Island of which we have any knowledge." (See also Morris 1: 26.) The authority for these statements is not given, but probably they were taken from O'Callaghan's *History of New Netherland* (1: 101. 1846). They are not supported by any substantial evidence. H. R. Stiles in his *History of the City of Brooklyn* (1: 25. 1869) says: "The statement so often reiterated by our local writers, and even by the historians of our State, that some of the Walloon emigrants of 1623 settled first at Staten Island (O'Callaghan Hist. 1: 101) and afterwards as early as 1624-5 at the 'Waal-bogt' (Brodhead 1: 153, 154) is entirely unsupported by documentary or other reliable evidence. It seems to have originated in faulty traditions and is a misapprehension of an ancient record relating to the daughter of Rapalje, the first settler in the 'Bogt.'"

In O'Callaghan's *Register of New Netherland* we find: "1624. Cornelis Jacobsen May, Director" [of New Netherland, of which Staten Island was a part]. Later critical investigation has furnished the date 1626 for the settlement of "Manhates" and the establishment of government there. (See Rep. N. Y. Commercial Tercent. Com. 80. 1914.) As contemporary accounts show that Staten Island was first colonized in 1639 (10) it could hardly have had, in 1624, local government in the sense we understand it, that is, some form of government of and by people on Staten Island. It is possible that Patroon Melyn, who had large power over his colonists as patroon, had some form of government over his few farmer colonists. We read that he established a Manorial Court in 1650 on Staten Island (13); also that in 1655, in City Hall, New Amsterdam, "Def^t. appeals to his competent Judge on Staten Island" (14).

We think, however, that the proper date when local government was established was Jan. 28, 1664, when an act was passed establishing a court at the recently begun village on Staten Island (Old Town), and appointing David d'Amarex, Piere Billiou, and Walraven Lutten, as Commissaries (5).

The fourth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1650. First church erected . . . by Waldensians.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved "1650. Stony Brook settled by Waldensians. First church on Island, erected at Stony Brook."

The Colonial Records make it evident that there were few people on Staten Island in 1650 (15). Melyn had induced Van der Capellen to send over 70 colonists who arrived in December 1650 (16). This colony increased to 90 souls on eleven bouweries in 1655, when its people were massacred or captured by the Indians (17). We find nothing to show that these colonists were Waldensians, or that they built a church or founded Stony Brook.

From the Dutch Council Minutes, 1656, we learn that there was a population of six or seven persons on Staten Island at that time (18). Nothing has been found to support the date and events cited but much to contradict them. We find Stony Brook mentioned in road records dated 1705 and 1708, but not as a village (19). In a patent dated 1702 the locality is referred to as New Dorp (20). The name Stony Brook appears on no early map of which we are cognizant. Robert Ryder, the surveyor, who knew the island thoroughly, in a manuscript map dated 1670 belonging to the New York Historical Society, of which this Association has a photographic copy, showed Old Town and New Town but did not show Stony Brook. Mr. J. H. Innes, an authority on the settlement of New York and vicinity, doubts "that the Rapaelje family ever settled in Staten Island, or that Waldenses founded Stony Brook, there being no documentary

proof of these statements extant." (City History Club Leaflet No. X: 24. 1908.)

It is impossible to tell from the records available when the first church was erected. The first record of preaching is by Rev. Samuel Drisius, every two months, in 1663-4 (21), probably at Old Town; and the first conveyance of a lot for church purposes that we have been able to find was for a lot at what is now Green Ridge, to the French congregation or church, in 1698 (22). We believe, however, that a church or churches had been built before this time, for the French Church on Staten Island contributed £3, in 1693, for freeing slaves in Salee (23). Miller, in his description of New York in 1695, stated that there was a meeting house in the county of Richmond and that the minister was Doctor Bonrepos (24). Clute (Annals 255) states that a church at Stony Brook was erected about 1665, and Morris has given 1658 (25) as the date of the building of the first church at Stony Brook and the founding of the village. We can find, however, no documentary proof of the building of a church at Stony Brook in 1665 or at any time previous thereto.

In a deed dated February 29, 1699, reference is made to "the house that belongs to the Dutch congregation" (26). This house is referred to in several deeds, sometimes as "the Voorleezer's house" (27). It is not certain, however, that the house was used as a church. The earliest record relating to a church building that we have found, except the reference to the meeting house above mentioned, is in a grant dated June 29, 1713, which recites "All that Stone Church called St. Andrews and the Tenement and Lott of whereon it is built" (28).

We conclude that the accuracy of the date and event inscribed cannot be maintained and that they should not be on the tablet.

The fifth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1660. Fresh Kills settled by French Huguenots.

The committee of 1906 approved "1660. Fresh Kill settled by Huguenots."

As the Huguenots were French Protestants, the addition of the word "French" does not seem to limit the statement of the committee.

We have found no evidence to support the date 1660, and from the letters of Stuyvesant from 1650 to 1666 (29), showing the condition of Staten Island, we believe it to be too early. In 1676 quite a number of surveys were filed for grants of land south of the Fresh Kill (30), and in 1698 a lot was conveyed to the French congregation for building a church at what is now Green Ridge (31). We do not find evidence that Fresh Kills was settled before New Dorp, which was laid out about 1670. The date of the filing of the surveys for patents is the only date that we can definitely fix in this matter, and while we believe many of the settlers in this vicinity were Huguenots most of the surveys were made for parties with English names.

We, therefore, consider the date and event too uncertain to be inscribed.

The sixth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1664. Dutch Government supplanted by English.

This is inscribed as selected and approved by the committee of 1906. Its accuracy has not been questioned and we have found abundant evidence in the records to sustain it. The historical importance of the event properly gives it a place on the tablet.

The seventh date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1668. Staten Island separated from New Jersey.

This inscription is precisely as approved by the committee of 1906.

It may be seen by reference to the appended extracts and from references concerning the settlement of Old Town and the event with which we are now dealing, that the Director General and Council of New Netherland exercised authority over Staten Island up to the surrender to the English in 1664 (32), and that there

was no province of New Jersey until that year (33). It may also be seen that Governor Nicolls of New York, previous to the year 1668, had placed Staten Island for the administration of justice in the West Riding of Yorkshire (34), and had confirmed Nicholas Stillwell as constable (35). Governor Carteret of New Jersey claimed Staten Island as a part of New Jersey by virtue of the grant by the Duke of York to Berkeley and Carteret; but this claim was stoutly denied by Nicolls and his successors, who retained their authority over it.⁴

A New Jersey historian sums up the matter as follows: "Although always in the possession of New York, the question of jurisdiction remained a mooted point until 1833, when the water boundary between the two states was established by a commission" (Whitehead, *East Jersey under the Proprietary Governments* 332. 1875).

We, therefore, find that Staten Island was not separated from New Jersey in 1668, nor was Staten Island ever a part of New Jersey. New Jersey, however, when conveyed to Berkeley and Carteret in 1664, and taken possession of by them in 1665, was separated from the territory retained by the Duke of York, which included Staten Island. The inscription is clearly erroneous.

The eighth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1683. Court House erected at Stony Brook (County Seat).

The committee of 1906, however, selected and approved "1683. Stony Brook made County Seat—until 1729. First County Court House, erected at Stony Brook. Organization of Richmond County."

A law was passed November 1, 1683, establishing the County of Richmond, and at the same time an act was passed establishing courts of justice (36). We have not been able to find any record bearing out the statement that in 1683 a courthouse was erected

⁴ See Delavan, E. C. Jr., *The Disputed Claim of the Proprietors of East Jersey to Staten Island*. PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 3: 37. Oct.-Dec. 1909.

at Stony Brook (county seat), and know of no reason for that date, except that the county was established in that year and the administration of justice provided for.

The only references we have found to original records which mention a courthouse at Stony Brook are in Clute's *Annals of Staten Island*, pages 167 and 459. On pages 130 and 168 Clute mentions the discovery of two books containing these records, but their whereabouts is unknown at the present time. Unfortunately Clute's reference, on page 167, to a "Court of Sessions held in the Court House at Stony Brook" (see Appendix, No. 140) leaves us in doubt as to whether these were the formal words used in the original record, or only an inference. It is hoped that these old record books, believed to have been in the county clerk's office, may yet be found and this uncertainty removed.

Of the many original early court records examined we have found none that state in what part of Staten Island courts were held. From an act passed June 27, 1704, and confirmed by the Queen on May 20, 1708, "for the Erecting and Building a County Jaile, and County House, in the County of Richmond," it would appear that there was no courthouse in Richmond County in 1704, for the act recites, "and whereas there is wanting in the said County of Richmond, a County Jaile and County House" (37).

It is not improbable that courts were held at Stony Brook, for Alexander Stuart, innholder, purchased property near Stony Brook in 1707, and was appointed county clerk in 1708 (38). He probably had a house or tavern on the property, where it may have been found convenient to hold court.

Morris (1: 80) states: "There are several records in existence of Court held at Stony Brook. The earliest mention of the Court of Sessions being held in Richmond is dated September 2, 1729. Previous to the erection of a Court House at that place the Courts were held in private houses and taverns, as the following entry will prove," etc.

We conclude from the examination of such facts as we have been able to collect in this matter, that the evidence is too uncer-

tain and contradictory to warrant the placing of the inscription upon the tablet.

We think an inscription "1683. Richmond County established, and Courts of Justice provided," would be a suitable substitute for that on the tablet.

The ninth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1729. County Seat changed to Richmond and second Court House built.

The committee of 1906 approved the following inscriptions: "1728. Erection of Second Court House, at Richmond." "1729. County Seat removed to Richmond."

We have appended to this report what evidence we have found in reference to the establishment of the courthouse at Richmond (39), and from this it can properly be inferred that the courthouse therein mentioned was the first erected at public expense on Staten Island, and that what is now known as Richmond was selected as the county seat by a committee of His Majesty's justices of the peace for the County of Richmond in 1707, acting under the law passed in 1704 requiring the selection of "Such convenient place or places neer the middle of the said County" (40).

It would appear that the site selected by the justices in 1707, which was on land belonging to "Mr. Rezoe and Lues Deboys," provided they gave the land (40), was not that on which the jail and courthouse was ultimately built, for there is no record to show that the above owners gave or sold their property for the purpose, and we learn from a deed given in 1768, that a plot near by had been "heretofore granted by Richard Cole, or William Tillyer, to the County of Richmond, for the use of settling a Court House." This deed of 1768 describes the property conveyed, as "beginning at the S. W. corner of Court House as it now stands" (41).

In 1741 the courthouse had not been entirely finished, for an

act was passed in that year to enable the justices to finish and complete their courthouse (42).

On March 6, 1729, a court was held in the courthouse at Richmond Town, according to Clute (p. 459), while the earliest mention of the court of sessions being held at Richmond is dated September 2, 1729, according to Morris (1: 80). If we accept these dates, which we have not verified by the original records, it can properly be said:

1729. Courthouse built at Richmond which had been selected for the county seat in 1707.

The tenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1776. Declaration of Independence announced at New Dorp.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1776. Arrival of British army on Staten Island. Declaration of Independence announced at New Dorp. Battle of Long Island planned at New Dorp. British-American conference at Billopp House."

By referring to Morris (1: 207) it may be seen that the event commemorated is the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Sir Wm. Howe and his generals, in the Old Rose and Crown farmhouse at New Dorp. There can be no reasonable doubt that they read this great document, as thousands of others did; but why this incident should be perpetuated as one of our most important historical events, and the date of the evacuation of Staten Island by the British pass unnoticed, is not clear. We believe that the inscription mentioned does not clearly indicate the nature of the event commemorated, and that the event is not of sufficient importance to have a place on the tablet.

"1783. Staten Island evacuated by the British," would be a more satisfactory inscription. This proposed inscription in a slightly modified form, it should be said, was suggested by the committee of 1906, but was not given a place on the tablet.

The eleventh date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1812. Rebuilding of British forts by the Americans.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved "1812. Rebuilding of British Forts by Americans."

From Wilson's Memorial History of New York City and the Public Papers of Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of New York, 1807 to 1817, published by the State in 1902, we learn that in 1807 the city was defenseless, the Narrows and Hell Gate passage being without a fortification; that the State of New York commenced the building of fortifications on Staten Island at the Narrows in the winter of 1808-9, and that the work was continued until the close of the war, December 25, 1814 (43).

We think from these circumstances, stated more in detail in the appendix, that the following inscription would be more accurate: 1808-14. Forts at the Narrows built by the State of New York.

The location of the several forts is well shown on a Map of New York Bay and Harbor and the Environs (U. S. Coast Survey, 1844-5), in the library of the Association.

The twelfth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1860. Running of first steam railroad on Staten Island.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1860. First steam railroad on Staten Island."

This was the railroad from Clifton to Tottenville, formerly owned by the Staten Island Railroad Company, now by the Staten Island Railway Company. Clute (Annals 331) says that the "first receipts from passengers was on the 23d day of April, 1860, the trains running only a part of the way; but on the second day of June, of that year, the formal opening of the road took place." Morris (2: 461) gives the same dates.

On August 22, 1910, S. P. Kretzer, Secretary of the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railway Company, wrote: "As far as I

can learn from old papers that were turned over to this Company by Jacob H. Vanderbilt, Receiver, it would appear that the first passenger train was run on a portion of the road on the 23d day of April, 1860, and the road formally opened on or about June 2d, 1860." A copy of this letter has been filed with the Association.

From the Supplement to Staten Island Names, Ye Olde Names and Nicknames, by Wm. T. Davis (PROC. NAT. SCI. ASSOC. STATEN IS. 8: 78. Oct. 1903), we quote: "He said he lived between the Iron Spring, and 'Skunks Misery,' and had walked five miles to take a look" (at the locomotive). Richmond County Gazette, March 28th, 1860."

We believe the date and event inscribed on the tablet to be correct and proper.

The thirteenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1886. Inauguration of Rapid Transit Railroad System.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1886. Rapid Transit Railroad opened for passenger traffic." Morris (2: 463) states: "On Feb. 23rd, 1886, the Rapid Transit Railroad was opened for passenger traffic," and Mr. S. P. Kretzer states, under date of August 22, 1910, in letter above referred to: "The first train of the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railroad Company, the predecessor of the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railway Company, was run between Clifton and Tompkinsville, July 31st, 1884, and the road was opened up for passenger traffic, as far as Elm Park, on February 22d or 23d, 1886." (See also Bayles, History of Richmond County, 691. 1887, for an account of the inauguration of the Rapid Transit Railroad System.)

The inscription is, therefore, correct.

The fourteenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1889. Opening of Achter Kill Bridge.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1889. Erection of Achter Kill bridge."

The letter of the secretary of the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railway Co., dated August 22, 1910, previously referred to, stated that construction of the Arthur Kill bridge was commenced in April 1887, and that the bridge was completed and first swung, by Erastus Wiman, at 4:15 o'clock in the afternoon of June 13, 1889. The first passenger train (Staten Island Rapid Transit Railroad) was run from St. George and passed over the bridge January 1, 1890.

The inscription would be more accurate and satisfactory if it read as follows: 1889. Railroad Bridge over Arthur Kill completed.

"Achter Kill" is neither ancient nor modern. In early days the name was usually written "Achter Col," or sometimes "Achter Kol." (See Index, Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York—Achter Col; also Van der Donck's description of New Netherland, 1655, as well as maps of the Dutch period.) As the name Arthur Kill was used in the act of Congress authorizing the construction of the bridge, and as it has been called by that name ever since, there seems to be no sufficient reason for the name "Achter" on the tablet.

The fifteenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1892. Installation of Electric Street Railroads.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following: "1891 (?). First electric railroad on Staten Island."

The Port Richmond and Prohibition Park Electric Railway Company built the first electric railroad on Staten Island, between Port Richmond and Prohibition Park.

The Electrical World states, in its issue of March 5, 1892: "The Port Richmond and Prohibition Park Electric Railway has secured a franchise from the Village, and will build an electric road from its grounds near the Village, to the shore of the Kill van Kull." And in its issue of July 2, 1892: "Port Richmond, N. Y. The R. R. commissioners have approved the application

of the Port Richmond and Prohibition Park Electric Railway Co. for permission to use the overhead single trolley electric system as motive power."

The late E. D. Clark, President of the Board of Directors of the Port Richmond and Prohibition Park Electric Railway Company furnished the following information on April 22, 1914, from memoranda kept by Mrs. Clark: "May 20, 1892, Mr. E. D. Clark drove first spike, in first electric railroad on Staten Island, at Jewett Ave. and Richmond Terrace. Saturday preceding July 4, 1892, electric cars were run between Port Richmond and Prohibition Park, and the public carried without charge. July 4, 1892, the road was regularly opened to the public, and fare collected."

The Staten Islander of July 6, 1892, says, "There is much rejoicing in Prohibition Park over the opening of the electric railway . . . On every hand are heard expressions of hope, that the road will be the predecessor of many others, the pioneer amongst dozens of others, penetrating all parts of the Island. . . . The Day at Prohibition Park [July 4, 1892] . . . the electric cars ran successfully."

Mr. H. J. Blackham, Superintendent of Railways of the Richmond Light & Railroad Co., has furnished the following data from memoranda and newspaper clippings:

"The Richmond County Railroad Company ran its first electric car about February 15, 1894."

"Staten Island Electric Road (Syndicate Road). Trolley car made first trip over completed portion of road from St. George to Jersey Street, December 17, 1895" (Staten Island Leader, December 21, 1895).

"South Shore line started January 1, 1896, from Hamilton Avenue, St. George, to Clifton R. R. crossing."

"First electric car to Elizabethport Ferry was run July 4, 1896, the day the above named Ferry was opened."

"The Midland Elec. Railroad Co. ran its first electric car (No. 12), from Port Richmond to Richmond, on Saturday evening,

July 25, 1896" (Richmond County Advance).

"First electric car was run to ferry at St. George, Thanksgiving day, 1896."

From the above it would appear that the inscription on the tablet should be corrected to read: 1892. First electric street railroad on Staten Island.

The sixteenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1898. Staten Island incorporated in New York City as Borough of Richmond.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following:

"1898. Staten Island incorporated in Greater New York."

Staten Island was incorporated in New York City, as the Borough of Richmond, by Chapter 378 of the Laws of 1897, which became a law May 4, 1897, with the approval of the Governor. The law provided that the new form of government should take the place of the old on January 1, 1898.

The inscription is correct.

The seventeenth date and event inscribed on the tablet is:

1906. Municipal Ferry established, Manhattan-Richmond.

The committee of 1906 selected and approved the following:

"1906. Municipal Ferry established."

Mr. W. A. Ross, Secretary of the Commissioner of Docks & Ferries of New York City, writes under date of March 17, 1914: "that the date of the establishment of the municipal ferry service to Staten Island was October 25, 1905." This letter is in the files of the Association.

The Staten Islander of October 25, 1905, also states that "the New Ferry begins to-day. The new ferry boats begin running this morning at 11 A. M."

We, therefore, find that the date should be changed from 1906 to 1905.

While it is quite certain that most of the dates and events which we have found correct, and those for which modifications have been suggested to meet the requirements of accuracy, deserve a place on the tablet, it should, nevertheless, be understood that among the many inscriptions that might be suggested our attention has been limited to the seventeen dates and events that have been placed thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD R. BAYNE,
GEORGE W. TUTTLE,
WM. T. DAVIS,
C. G. HINE,
Committee.

REFERENCES TO AUTHORITIES FOR STATEMENTS MADE IN THE REPORT⁵

1. Documents relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York. Albany 1853-87 (hereafter referred to as Col. Doc.) 13: 200. (App. No. 7.)
The New York Historical Society Collections 1913. (Melyn Papers p. 109-115). (App. No. 49.)
2. **De Vries, D. P.** Korte Historiae, ende Journael 'tHoorn 1655. Reprinted in Narratives of New Netherland 1609-1664: 211. N. Y. 1909. (App. No. 14.)
3. Col. Doc. 13: 223, 244. (App. No. 55.)
4. Col. Doc. 2: 443. (App. No. 61); 14: 546. (App. No. 57.)
5. **O'Callaghan, E. B.** Laws and Ordinances of New Netherland 1638-1674: 458. Albany 1868. (App. No. 58.)
6. Record of Patents 3: 13, in the Office of the Sec. of State, Albany. (App. No. 62.)
7. Land Papers 2: 67, in the Office of the Sec. of State, Albany. (App. No. 63.)

⁵ Extracts from these authorities, included in the Appendix, are indicated by the references "(App. No. —)," in which the numbers correspond with those in the margin of the Appendix.

8. Land Papers 2: 68, 71, 87, in the Office of the Sec. of State, Albany. (App. No. 74.)
Record of Patents in the Office of the Sec. of State, Albany, 5: 285, 342, 384; 6: 251. (App. No. 74.)
9. Col. Doc. 13: 415. (App. No. 124.)
Denton, Daniel. A Brief Description of New York, etc. London 1670. (App. No. 65.)
Journal of Jasper Danckaerts 1679-80 p. 72. N. Y. 1913. (App. No. 68.)
10. Same as No. 2 p. 202 and 211. (App. No. 5 and 11.)
11. Same as No. 2 p. 211. (App. No. 12.)
12. Same as No. 2 p. 211. (App. No. 11.)
The New York Historical Society Collections 1913 (Melyn Papers p. 109). (App. No. 49.)
13. **Brodhead, J. R.** History of the State of New York 1853-71 1: 525. (App. No. 23.)
O'Callaghan, E. B. History of New Netherland 2: 158. N. Y. 1848. (App. No. 23.)
Col. Doc. 14: 157. (App. No. 24.)
14. The Record (Court Minutes) of New Amsterdam. 1: 412. N. Y. 1897. (App. No. 33.)
15. Col. Doc. 14: 168. (App. No. 25.)
See also references No. 16, 17, and 18.
16. Col. Doc. 1: 528, 638. (App. No. 22.)
Brodhead, J. R. History of the State of New York 1: 524. (App. No. 22.)
O'Callaghan, E. B. History of New Netherland 2: 130, 157. N. Y. 1848. (App. No. 22.)
17. Col. Doc. 1: 528, 638. (App. No. 30.)
The New York Historical Society Collections 1913 (Melyn Papers p. 109). (App. No. 49.)
18. Calendar of New York Historical Manuscripts, Dutch Council Minutes, Albany 1865, 166. (App. No. 38.)
Col. Doc. 14: 441. (App. No. 48.)
19. Records 1680-1760 Richmond County, in Office of the County

- Clerk, printed in Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Stillwell 1: 52, 54. (App. No. 136 and 138.)
20. Record of Patents in the Office of the Sec. of State, Albany 7: 206. (App. No. 134.)
21. Col. Doc. 13: 391. (App. No. 79.)
22. Liber B of Deeds p. 275, in Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. (App. No. 98.)
- Morris, I. K.** Memorial History of Staten Island 1: 50. N. Y. 1898. (App. No. 98.)
23. Ecclesiastical Records State of New York 2: 1063. Albany 1901. (App. No. 92.)
24. **Miller, J.** A Description of the Province and City of New York in 1695: 37. N. Y. 1862. (London 1843.) (App. No. 94.)
25. **Morris, I. K.** Memorial History of Staten Island 1: 44. N. Y. 1898. (App. No. 108.)
26. Liber B of Deeds p. 388 and 390 in Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. (App. No. 99 and 100.)
27. Liber B of Deeds p. 262 in Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. (App. No. 95.)
28. Liber B of Deeds p. 629 in Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. (App. No. 102.)
29. Col. Doc. 14: 441 (App. No. 48); 13: 206, 223, 224 (App. No. 53 and 55); 2 443 (App. No. 61.)
30. Calendar of New York Colonial Manuscripts, endorsed Land Papers, in the Office of the Sec. of State of New York, 1648-1803: 7-8. Albany 1864. (App. No. 112.)
31. Liber B of Deeds in the office of the County Clerk, Richmond County p. 275. (App. No. 115.)
- Morris, I. K.** Memorial History of Staten Island 1: 50. N. Y. 1898. (App. No. 115.)
32. Col. Doc. 14: 374 (App. No. 40), 430 (App. No. 46), 546 (App. No. 57); 13: 206. (App. No. 54.)
33. Archives of the State of New Jersey, first series 1: 9-14. Newark 1880. (App. No. 121.)

- Brodhead, J. R.** History of the State of New York 2: 82. (App. No. 121.)
34. Colonial Laws of New York 1 (1664-1719): Historical Note p. xi. 1894. (App. No. 123.)
- Brodhead, J. R.** History of the State of New York 2: 63. (App. No. 123.)
- Col. Doc. 14: 603-605. (App. No. 125 and 126.)
35. Col. Doc. 13: 415. (App. No. 124.)
36. Colonial Laws of New York 1 (1664-1719): 121-127. 1894. (App. No. 130 and 131.)
37. Colonial Laws of New York 1 (1664-1719): 573, 574. 1894. (App. No. 135.)
38. Liber B of Deeds p. 562, in Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. Werner's Civil List of the State of New York, 1889, p. 540. (App. No. 137.)
39. Colonial Laws of New York 1 (1664-1719): 573, 574 (App. No. 143); 2: 467-467 (App. No. 147.)
- Clute, J. J.** Annals of Staten Island 459. N. Y. 1877. (App. No. 149.)
- Morris, I. K.** Memorial History of Staten Island 1: 80. N. Y. 1898. (App. No. 150.)
40. Records 1680-1760 Richmond County, in Office of the County Clerk, printed in Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Stillwell 1: 42, 52. (App. No. 144, 145.)
41. Liber D of Deeds, p. 618, in the Office of the County Clerk, Richmond County. (App. No. 153.)
42. Colonial Laws of New York 3 (1739-55): 167-168. 1894. (App. No. 152.)
43. **Wilson, J. G.** Memorial History of the City of New York, 3: 237, 284, 290. N. Y. 1893. (App. No. 155, 161, 162 and 167.)
- Public papers of Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of New York from 1807 to 1817, 1: 55-78; 2: 78, 138, 161, 185, 242-249; 3: 436, 472-478, 533. N. Y. & Albany 1898. (App. No. 156-160, 163-166, 168.)

APPENDIX

LIST OF IMPORTANT EVENTS DISCUSSED IN THE REPORT, WITH
EXTRACTS FROM DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO

I. 1609. DISCOVERY OF STATEN ISLAND BY HENRY HUDSON

In the table of dates, in Wilson's History of the City of New York, we find the following: "1609 Henry Hudson sails into New York Bay and explores the Hudson River to the head of navigation." (Loc. cit. 1: 604. 1893.)

This briefly states the great thing Hudson did; but he also discovered Staten Island, for Juett, one of Hudson's companions on the *Half Moon*, so clearly describes their position that it can be readily seen that the *Half Moon* was in the Lower Bay and Narrows, from September 3 to 11, 1609, while a boat was making explorations and taking soundings in the vicinity.

Historians agree that Staten Island, Kill van Kull, and Bergen Neck, are referred to in the last clause of the statement of Juett, (1610) that "They found by the way shoald water, two fathoms; but at the North of the River eighteen and twentie fathoms, and very good riding for Ships; and a narrow River to the Westward, betweene two Ilands" (Narr. New Neth. 18; Henry Hudson the Navigator 80.)

Van Meteren (1614) says: "Thence they sailed along the shore, until they reached 40° 45', where they found a good entrance, between two headlands, and thus entered on the 12th of September [1609], into as fine a river as can be found, with good anchoring ground on both sides." (Henry Hudson the Navigator 150. Narr. New Neth. 7.) One of these headlands is plainly Staten Island.

The two preceding citations are from the following publications:

JUETT, ROBERT. The Third Voyage of Master Henry Hudson, etc. in Purchas S. His Pilgrimes. London 1625.

VAN METEREN. Historie der Nederlanden. Hague 1614.

For copies of original documents relating to Hudson, and references on the subject, see *Henry Hudson the Navigator*, by G. M. Asher, the Hakluyt Society, London 1860; and *Narratives of New Netherland*. N. Y. 1909.

II. THE SETTLEMENT OF OLD TOWN, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND INCIDENTS LEADING UP TO THOSE EVENTS

1. **1623.** Director Stuyvesant, in a letter to the directors in Holland, dated September 24, 1661, reports that certain persons are trying to influence the King of England to take Fort Amsterdam, "by telling him, that the W. I. Co. claims and holds this province by unlawful title, because in 1623 King James had granted to the Company only a watering place on Staten Island and nothing more." (Col. Doc. 14: 506.)
2. **1628.** Isaac de Rasieres, Provincial Secretary, wrote as follows in 1627 or 1628: "The west point is an island, inhabited by from 80 to 90 savages, who support themselves by planting maize." (Narr. New Neth. 103.)
3. **1630.** A sale of Staten Island to Michael Pauw (absent) was made by the Indians, and attested by Director Minuit, August 10, 1630. (Col. Doc. 13: 2.)
4. **1637.** In 1637 the Directors of the West India Co. at Amsterdam succeeded in purchasing from Michael Pauw his territorial rights as Patroon. (Brodhead 1: 268; Holland Doc. 5: 400; N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll. 2d Ser. 2: 338.) Nothing has been brought forth to show that Pauw ever entered upon his purchase.
5. **1639. First colonization.**—The first colonization of Staten Island that has been brought to light is recorded in *Short Historical and Journal Notes* by David Pietersz de Vries, Alckmaer 1655, which states:

"ANNO. 1639 *The 5th January I sent my people to Staten Island to begin to plant a colony there, with assistance to build.*" (Narr. New Neth. 202. Old South Leaflets No. 168 p. 2.)

6. Cornelis Melyn,⁶ a Dutch merchant, visits New Netherland June 16, 1639. (O'Callaghan's Hist. 1: 238; Brodhead 1: 289.)
7. 1640. 3d July 1640. Petition of Melyn by which he receives consent of Directors of West India Co. to establish a colony on Staten Island, and is acknowledged as its Patroon. (Col. Doc. 13: 200.)
8. 1641. 18th Feb. 1641. Another petition, after Melyn's release from imprisonment,⁷ in which he requests "permission, to go to New Netherland with his wife, children, servants, and some animals, in the Company's ships." (Col. Doc. 13: 200.)
9. 18th and 25th February 1641. Two resolutions were passed by the Lords Directors of West India Co., renewing consent formerly given to Melyn to go to New Netherland. (Col. Doc. 13: 201.)
10. Ordinance of the Director and Council of New Netherland, offering a reward for the heads of Raritan Indians, passed 4th July 1641.

"Whereas the Indians of the Raritan are daily exhibiting more and more hostility, notwithstanding they have, by a messenger solicited peace of Us, which we consented to, and permitted him to depart unmolested, on the promise to notify unto Us, within twelve days, the resolution of his Chief, which has not been done; the same Indians, who had experienced every friendship at our hands, having in the meantime, on the plantation of Mess^{rs}. De Vries and David Pietersen, partners, situate on Staten Island, murdered four Tobacco planters, and set fire to the dwelling and tobacco house, whereby the Planters, Farmers and other outlying remote settlers stand in great danger of life and property, which We, under existing circumstances, in consequence of the density of the forest and small number of men, cannot prevent; We have, therefore, esteemed as the best means and considered it expedient to encourage the Indians, our allies hereabout, to take up arms, in order thus to cut off any stray parties who must pass through their territory so that they cannot accomplish any thing against

⁶ For an account of the descendants of Cornelis Melyn see *New Amsterdam and its People*, by J. H. Innes, N. Y. 1902, p. 350-356; also *Baker Ancestry*, by Frank Baker, Chicago 1914.

⁷ He had been taken prisoner on his voyage out by the "Dunkirkers," who had captured his vessel.

our Bouweries and plantations without danger, or at least without being discovered; and in order to incite them the more, we have promised them, Ten fathoms of Wampum for each head of the above mentioned Raritans, and 20 fathoms of Wampum for every head of the Indians who have most barbarously murdered our people on Staten Island." (O'Callaghan Laws and Ord. 28.)

11. **1641. First occupants.**—"ANNO 1641. The 20th August, the ship Eyckenboom (Oak-tree) arrived here, in which came a person named Malyn, who said that Staten Island belonged to him, . . . I thought better things of the managers than this, as the sixth article of privileges mentions that *the first occupants shall not be prejudiced in their right of possession.*" (Old South Leaflets No. 168 p. 15; Narr. New Neth. 211.)
12. "The 1st of September [1641] my men on Staten Island were killed by the Indians"; . . . "Thus I lost the beginning of my colony on Staten Island." (De Vries.) (Narr. New Neth. 211; Old South Leaflets No. 168: 15, 16.)
13. 12th Sept. 1641. Director and Council considered it advisable to erect a small redoubt on Staten Island. (Col. Doc. 13: 9.)
14. The 2d Nov. 1641. "The same day Commander Kieft asked me whether I would permit Malyn to go upon the point of Staten Island, where the maize land lay, saying that he wished to let him plant it, and that he would place soldiers there, who would make a signal by raising a flag, to make known at the fort whenever ships were in the bay, to which I have consented." (De Vries.) (Old South Leaflets No. 168 p. 16; Narr. New Neth. 211.)
15. **1642.** 19th June 1642. A title deed given, which is the conveyance of Staten Island (excepting as much of it as has been granted to de Vries for a bouwerie) to Cornelis Melyn, Patroon. (Col. Doc. 13: 201.)
16. **1643.** Indians rose in arms, on account of an attack upon them by the Dutch on the night between the 27th and 28th February 1643, and destroyed all but two bouweries on Staten Island. (Col. Doc. 1: 151.)
17. **1645.** July 7th, 1645. From Instructions for the Director & Council of New Netherland: "The Director proceeds so rigorously against . . . and the Patroon of Staten Island . . . and so terrifying Cornelis Melyn, on Staten Island, that he dare not leave the place, nor entirely expose himself." (Col. Doc. 1: 498.)

18. **1647.** July 25th, 1647. The Director and Council of New Netherland, decreed that Melyn should be fined and banished for seven years. (Calendar N. Y. Hist. Manuscripts 111.)
19. 16th August 1647. Melyn sailed for Holland, on the ship Princess. (Brodhead 1: 472.)
20. **1649.** Jan. 2d, 1649. The Director and Council of New Netherland adopt a resolution permitting Melyn to reside in New Netherland, in obedience to orders from the States-General, and the Prince of Orange. (Calendar N. Y. Hist. Manuscripts 121.)
21. **1650.** "We do not think it advisable to consider at present your request of erecting a redoubt opposite Staten Island, nor the case of the soldier whom Cornelis Melyn has debauched, and who is still upon that island:" (Letter, Directors of the W. I. Company to Stuyvesant, Amsterdam, 16th Feb. A° 1650; Col. Doc. 14: 122.)
22. Melyn induces Hendrick van der Capellen to undertake the settlement of a colony on Staten Island. Van der Capellen purchased the ship New Netherland Fortune on May 18th, 1650, which sailed on June 30th, with 70 persons on board, including Melyn, in the charge of Capt. Adriaen Post. The ship did not reach Manhattan until Dec. 19th, 1650. (Brodhead 1: 524; O'Callaghan's Hist. 2: 130, 157; Col. Doc. 1: 528, 638.)
23. Melyn fortified himself in his colony, where he established a Manorial Court. (Brodhead 1: 525; O'Callaghan 2: 158.)
24. 13th Feb. 1652. Representation made by the Directors of the Amsterdam Chamber of the West India Co. to the Burgomasters and Regents of Amsterdam.
 "Upon the Island [S. I.] they [Melyn and another], have established a government according to their own notion, also a judicial court." (Col. Doc. 14: 157.)
25. **1652.** Extract from letter from Directors in Holland to Stuyvesant, 4th April 1652:
 "All this with the understanding, that we are and will be willing, to grant as much land to everybody, as he will undertake to cultivate and populate, but we do not intend to give away the land with unlimited boundaries, as formerly, especially not whole islands, of which one was given to Cornelis Melyn, who upon 8 leagues of country has only settled 5 or 6 living beings." (Col. Doc. 14: 168.)

26. "[Account of Melyn vs. Van der Capellen]
The Hon. Lord Debit

1. By appraisal of arbitrators is to pay for the barn, rick, well, palisades, etc. and guardhouse etc. the amount of	guilders	1500.
2. For 6½ Morgen (13 acres) of clear land..	"	650.
3. For post rails, according to the decision of arbitrators	"	171:8
4. For the Cattle, as per the Contract.....	"	800.
5. Also according to account as sent to His Honour on Sept. 18th, 1651 for what I have advanced for His Honor's Farmers..	"	1395:3:8
Bill delivered this 15 December 1652, to Mr. Lubartes Van Dincklagen and Jabock Van Couwenhoven for advances made to this date to the said farmers...	"	430:9
		<u>4948:0:8</u>

[Melyn vs. Van der Capellen]
Credit

1. For as much as he has paid to me in Fatherland in 1650, as appears in the Contract	guilders	1200.
2. For two pairs of plough oxen, ordered in my account, sent on Sept. 18th, 1651.....	"	400.
	guilders	1600.
3. Dec. 13th 1652 for an assignment drawn on the said date to the charge of the said Lord	"	600.
	guilders	<u>2200:</u>
4. Balance of the present account	guilders	2748:8
	guilders	<u>4948:8</u>
5. Note that the 280 wagon loads of manure have not been considered in the account of the arbitrators but have been left to the discretion of the Hon. Lord by me Cornelis Melyn.		

This account is endorsed in English: "L. Capelle acct. wch. he owes Cornelius Melyen." Though the account mentions neither the name of the debtor nor the locality on account whereof the

debts were contracted, it is evident that this is Melyen's account with Baron Van der Capellen concerning the latter's colony on Staten Island." (The New York Historical Society Collections 1913; Melyn Papers 1640-1699 p.106. The original manuscripts and ancient copies are in the possession of the New York Historical Society.)

27. **1654.** 10th Feb. 1654. A calculation was made in session (at New Amsterdam) how to procure means to resist and prevent piracy. It was proposed to fit out a vessel with 40 men, and it was proposed to tax Staten Island for two men. (Records New Amsterdam 1: 159.)
28. April 15th 1654. "Also, that his Honor would speak or write to Cornelis Melyn of Staten Island about it, [defense against piracy] who had said some time ago, that he was ready to lend a helping hand." (Records New Amsterdam 1: 186.)
29. **1655.** "And a few days later cleared Staten Island of people and houses." Extract from letter of Cornelis van Tienhoven, 14th November 1655 in reference to the massacre by the Indians Sept. 15th, 1655. (Col. Doc. 13: 57.)
30. Van der Capellen in a remonstrance dated 4th October 1656 states "that in August 1655 his Colonie had a population of over 90 souls, with 11 bouwerries in progress, and that all his people that did not make their escape, were killed by the natives, and all his houses and the barns appertaining to the bouwerries on Staten Island were burned." (Col. Doc. 1: 638.)
31. "Adriaen Post said and declared, that all the houses had been burned during the well known affair with the savages Anno 1655 and that no other property had been left, except a few heads of cattle, which he himself had hunted up, after having been released from captivity." (Extract from a letter of Stuyvesant to Directors in Holland, 21st July 1661; Col. Doc. 13: 206.)
32. "Noble and Mighty Sir:

My Lord Schepen Bontemantel:

. . . We ran out to sea for the Menades on the 12th, and on the 17th happily arrived within Sandy Hook. On the 21st we sailed for the North River of Staten Island, by the watering place, and saw that all the houses there, and about the beer house, were burned up by the Indians. . . .

I remain your Honor's Obedient Servant,

Johannes Bogaert

Laus Deo, Ship de Waegh (The Balance).

Schrijver

the 31st October, 1655." (Extract from letter in Historical Magazine 1858: 259.)

33. "Monday 6th Decemb^r 1655. In the City Hall [New Amsterdam] . . . Cornelia Schellinger,⁸ pltf. v/s Andries Pos, deft. In case of arrest. Deft. appeals to his competent Judge on Staten Island. . . . Whereas it is in case of arrest, the Court decide, that deft. is amenable to this Bench." . . . Plaintiff stated that she had a mortgage on cattle and other property of Lord van der Capelle, and that cattle were killed and sold without satisfying mortgage. (Records New Amsterdam 1: 412, 413.)
34. "Monday 13th Decemb^r 1655 in the City Hall. Jannetie Melyns,⁹ pltf. v/s Capt. Adries Pos, deft. Relative to difference about certain cattle, which pltf. has on Staten Island and which deft. prevents her bringing hither; and also that deft. appropriates, what pltf. still owns there." . . . (Records New Amsterdam 1: 416.)
35. 1656. From an Ordinance of the Director General and Council of New Netherland for the formation of villages, etc., passed 18th January 1656, "charge and command them to concentrate themselves, by next Spring, in the form of Towns, Villages, and Hamlets." (O'Callaghan Laws and Ord. 207.)
36. 26th January 1656. Director Stuyvesant to the Council "I stop here and impress it upon your Honors' mind, whether it would not be well, to remove also the small garrison on Staten Island, which has no more protection, but much less than the sailors on the yacht." (Col. Doc. 13: 60.)
37. April 27th 1656. "Petition. Dirck van Schelluyne, for and on behalf of Mdme. Post, setting forth her husband's illness, and praying that an armed force be sent to Staten Island for the protection of the rights of baron van der Capelle tho Ryssel, patroon of that place, and that another person be sent thither to take care of the property etc." (Calendar N. Y. Hist. Manuscripts 166.)
38. April 27th, 1656. "Answer to the above. Nothing on the island worth preserving but the cattle; recommends the removal of these to Long Island; population only 6 or 7 persons; 'twould be folly to send a garrison for their protection, an armed force therefore refused; approve of Van Schelluyne as Mr. Van der Capelle's agent." (Calendar N. Y. Hist. Manuscripts 166.)
39. 19th June 1656. "Cornelia Schellinger, pltf, v/s Tryntie van Engelen, deft. Pltf. says that deft. holds her mother's ox in arrest on Staten Island without any reason." (Records New Amsterdam 2: 116.)

⁸ Daughter of Cornelis Melyn.

⁹ Jannetie Melyn, wife of Cornelis Melyn.

40. 19th December 1656. Directors W. I. Co. to Gov. Stuyvesant: "At the request of Baron van der Capellen who now again is sending over some people for the advancement of his bouwerries, we have decided to recommend to you especially, that in times of need care be taken and orders issued for the safety of his Honor's people and farmers on Staten Island by assisting them in such occasions with 5 or 6 soldiers." (Col. Doc. 14: 374.)
41. 1657. 17th April 1657. "van de Capellen sent out fresh colonists, and endeavored to encourage the former settlers to return to their deserted homes." (Brodhead 1: 641.)
42. 10th July 1657. van der Capellen secured a deed of Staten Island from the Indians. (Col. Doc. 14: 393.)
43. 14th November 1657: "List of the farmers, men, women, and children, male and female servants sent by Yoncker Hendrick van der Capellen toe Ryssel to Staten Island, in New-Netherland, in West-India since May 1650. And of those who were alive after the dreadful and bloody massacre by the savages in September 1655.
"Captain Adriaen Post with his wife, five children, one male, and one female servant, is still on the Island" [then follows names of persons all living elsewhere]. "There are altogether 62 living souls. This has been reported at Zutphen, on the 1⁴/₄ November 1657, by the wife of Captain Adriaen Post and by the farmer Jan. Aerentsen van Heerde." (Col. Doc. 13: 74).
44. 22d December 1657. van der Capellen having requested the Directors of the West India Co. to assist him in getting his people back into his service, the Directors request the Director General and Council to give him every possible assistance. (Col. Doc. 13: 76.)
45. 22d December 1657. Directors in letter to Stuyvesant object to purchase of Staten Island from Indians by Baron van der Capellen. Stuyvesant is instructed to get a deed to the Directors, and annul the other. (Col. Doc. 13: 75.)
46. 1659. 13th February, 1659 Letter from Directors W. I. Co. to Director Stuyvesant. "We uphold what we formerly wrote you about Baron Hendrick van der Capelle, who has bought Staten Island without the knowledge of the Company and calls himself Lord and Patroon of it. Our former order must be executed and the island taken possession of by you in the name of the Company either by virtue of a purchase already made or to be made hereafter. (Col. Doc. 14: 430.)

47. Contract between Lords Directors and Melyn regarding Staten Island, 14th June 1659. Melyn agrees to release to West India Co. his authority, jurisdiction, etc. as Patroon, and keeps lands, houses, and lots, thus far possessed. When a sheriff is wanted in the colony, or shall be appointed, his son when he becomes of age, shall have the preference. (O'Callaghan Hist. 2: 575; Col. Doc. 13: 200; Albany Records vol. 8.)

48. 23rd July 1659 "As very few persons live on Staten Island on behalf of Baron van der Capelle, not more than two or three families, for whose safety, pursuant to your orders five or six soldiers are kept there at the expense of the Company and as so far no more show any inclination to settle there as colonists, this matter remains as it was, at least until you shall have spoken with Cornelis Melyn, who is still in Holland." (Director and Council to Directors in Holland. Col. Doc. 14: 441.)

49. Extracts from "The Remonstrance & Petition of Cornelius Melyen to ye West India Company in Amsterdam Anno 1659.

"In the year 1640, on July 2d, obtained from your Honors liberty to found in New Netherland, wherever he might think proper a colony and that for this purpose he selected the said Staten Island, . . . August 13, 1640, when he was going thither with people, cattle, goods and all implements necessary for agriculture, he was taken by a Dunkirk frigate, on account whereof he was prevented said year till Anno 1641, when through your help and assistance he arrived with the ship 'Den Eyckenboom' (The Oaktree) in New Netherland on the said Statten Island with 41 persons. He immediately began to build houses, to plough land, and to do everything conducive to establishing a good colony. . . ."

He writes of the massacre by the Indians in 1643 as follows:

"My houses and farms and everything were burnt my cattle besides some people were shot dead, so that I was obliged to flee for the sake of saving my life, and to sojourn with wife and children at the Menatans till the year 1647, . . . I agreed on certain conditions with the Hon. Lord Hendrick Van der Capellen to resell etc. about one-third share of my Colony on the Staten Island, which upon contract he agrees at his expense to people with settlers, and to bring his share up to condition, which he has demonstrated. Consequently about 70 strong and with fresh necessaries for agriculture I again set sail for New Netherland, with the ship named the New Netherland Fortune. . . . I have

resolved to quit the Menatans and, thus Wronged and plundered, to join with wife and children my people in my colony on Staten Island . . . and further intending to repair my above mentioned losses, and attend to the support of my wife and children, which has again been assiduously undertaken by myself and my people, and commenced to cultivate the land which had been laying so long fallow to clear, plow, sow, mow, thresh, make a harbour to build houses, racks, barns for the purpose of lodging the people, and the cattle we were using . . . and there had been commenced 16 handsome farms as well by myself as by my children as also by the people taken along by me for the Lord Van der Capelle and sent over by His Honor; which farms were covered with 27 buildings; houses, racks and barns, each well provided with cattle as well beautiful plow oxen, milch cows, as calves for increase, so that everything began to be abundant on Staten Island." Melyn was in prison in Manhattan when the Indian massacre occurred on the "16th of September [1655] when the savages set fire to all buildings around the Menatans and killed and murdered a large number of our people"; his friends procured his release, however. "I then immediately departed for the Staten Island to see whether I could save my people, houses and goods from the savages; but in vain; for a few days later the savages arrived there in great numbers and commenced to attack our people, to set fire to the houses, stacks, barns mostly full of grain, so that the people were obliged to seek safety in my house which they (the savages) also succeeded in setting afire. And when the cinders began to fall down on us we were forced to leave it and obliged to break through the savages to enable us to retire to another small house standing close to the shore. Here we held out for some time longer, hoping meanwhile to receive some assistance from the Menatans. But all in vain. At last the savages called out to us that if we desired quarter they would grant the same to us, whereupon we resolved as we saw no other refuge (here nearly an entire line obliterated) because from among our number already 15 or 16 persons, among whom my son 22 years old, my son in law and two nephews had been shot dead, besides some wounded; and thus fifty-one in number went into captivity among the savages, where we remained during thirty one days until I had raised a ransom of about 1400 guilders for myself, wife, son and son-in-law, which was to be paid if we did not want to be burnt alive in a fire which for this purpose had been already prepared and was burning. . . .

I submit to your Honour's judgment after all that had befallen me and I being in such a sorrowful and miserable condition, my children and people murdered by the savages, the houses, racks, barns to the number of 25, burnt, the people, cattle and farms destroyed, my goods stolen, and in place thereof debts incurred for my ransom, and retaining the bitter hatred of the Director, I have resolved to quite the Menatans, in order not to perish absolutely with wife and children and for the time being to put myself under the protection of the English; and consequently departed with my family for New Haven." (The New York Historical Society Collections 1913. Melyn Papers 109-115).

50. **1660.** An ordinance of the Director General and Council of New Netherland for the establishment of Villages passed February 9th, 1660, provided that all isolated Farmers at latest by middle of April, should remove houses, goods and cattle, to the village or settlement nearest and most convenient to them, "or, with the approval of Director General and Council, to a favorably situated and defensible spot in a new palisaded Village to be hereafter formed, on pain of confiscation of all such goods as shall be found after the aforesaid time, in separate dwelling and farm-houses." (O'Callaghan Laws and Ord. 369.)

1. March 6th, 1660 a treaty of peace is made with the Indians. Mettano formerly chief of Najeck is now chief of Staten Island. (Col. Doc. 13: 148.)

2. The 20th November 1660 Baron Frederick van der Capellen ter Budelhof, as Executor and Co-heir of the late Hendrick van der Capellen tot Ryssel, surrenders to the West India Co. "such a portion as the aforesaid Baron van der Capellen pretended to be his property, in Staten Island, situated in New Netherland, with the Patronage, the Mansion, Outhouses, Tools of husbandry, Stock," etc. (O'Callaghan Hist. 2: 576; Albany Records vol. 8.)

3. **1661.** Extract from letter of Stuyvesant to the Directors, 21st July 1661, which refers to claim of Melyn to the ownership of $\frac{2}{3}$ of Staten Island and his claim on the other $\frac{1}{3}$ against the heirs of van der Capelen:

"This is the reason why these suitable lands are not settled and cultivated and they will be settled and cultivated only slowly, as long as the aforesaid Melyn makes claim to be owner of either the whole or part of it." (Col. Doc. 13: 206.)

54. August 22d, 1661. Petition of Pieter Billou, Claude Le Maitre and others, all recently arrived emigrants, asking that lands on Staten Island "might be allotted and given them as property for farm land, meadow and pastures and that lots for houses and gardens might be laid out at a convenient place."

"The Director General and Council heard the petition and after taking it in consideration, they resolved to look up a convenient place on Staten-Island and lay it out for a village." (Col. Doc. 13: 206; O'Callaghan Hist. 2: 427; Brodhead 1: 692.)

55. 1662. 15th July 1662. Extract from a letter of Director Stuyvesant to Directors in Holland,

"6 men on Staten-Island for the safety of the few inhabitants there, . . . Your Honor's orders and instructions regarding the pretenses of Melyn are strictly obeyed. It must be presumed, that the lands, formerly cultivated by him, will remain abandoned, as since he has been driven from them now seven years ago, he has not troubled himself about the land. We hardly believe, that for the present he will again take possession of them, for he has taken up his residence at New Haven in New England for a few years past, where he still lives." (Col. Doc. 13: 223, 224.)

56. 1663. Extract from journal of a voyage to the Newesingshs, the Sachem and another Savage of Staten-Island, aboard.

Dec. 6th, 1663. "About 3 o'clock we left the Manhatans under sail, and arrived behind Staten Island, at about 6 o'clock in the evening, where the Sachem of this island, and the savage went ashore." (Col. Doc. 13: 314.)

57. 1662 (about). **Settlement of Old Town.**—Director Stuyvesant wrote to the Directors in Holland, April 26th, 1664, as follows:

"The first point in your letter requiring an explanation, is the wish, expressed by you, concerning the settling and securing of both Long and Staten Islands near the Narrows. Your Honors' servants are and have been taking care of this and carried it out some time ago by forming hamlets on both islands, according to the circumstances and the convenience of the places and soil as near to the Narrows, as the accommodation of settlers would permit. . . . A hamlet not yet named, was begun on Staten Island about two years ago, and has now about 12 to 14 families of Dutch and French from the Palatinate; it lies about half an hours walk

from the Narrows,¹⁰ there being no more convenient place for a village nearer the water. Both these places were provided with commodious block houses as a defense against the attacks of savages last summer; the blockhouses are built by putting beam upon beam and for their better defence are each provided with two or three light pieces of ordnance, of which one or two are pedereroes; the hamlet on Staten Island, being the weakest and too far to be relieved in time, is garrisoned with ten soldiers for its greater safety." (Col. Doc. 14: 546.)

58. **1664. Court established.**—Ordinance of the Director General and Council of New Netherland erecting a Court of Justice on Staten Island, Passed 28th January 1664.

"The Director General and Council of New Netherland,
To all those who shall see these Presents or hear them read,
Greeting make known.

That they, for the public good, for the greater advancement and increase of the recently begun Village on Staten Island, and for the more convenient administration of Justice have considered it necessary to establish in the aforesaid Village an Inferior Court of Justice, which shall provisionally consist of the three under-named Commissaries, to wit: David d'Amarex, Piere Billiou, and Walraven Lutten.

Before whom, in the first instance, shall be brought all Questions, Actions and Differences arising in said Village between Lord and Vassal, Master and Servant man, Mistress and Maid, Neighbor and Neighbor, Buyer and Seller, Lessor and Lessee, Master and Workman, and other such like; Item, all Criminal Actions, consisting of Deeds, Threats, Fighting or Wounding, whether moved and instituted by party or by the Senior Commissary who, until further order, shall represent the Sheriff in that place.

And said Commissaries shall do justice to the best of their knowledge between parties appearing before them, and may decree provision of Deposit, Dismissal or Definitive condemnation, as the circumstances of the case shall authorize.

¹⁰ Translation made about 1820 by Dr. Francis Adriaen van der Kemp from Albany Records (18: 235-6) reads as follows:

"A new concentration was two years ago commenced on Staten Island, yet without a name, of about 12 @ 14 families, consisting in Dutch and French from the Palatinat nearly one mile and a half from the entrance [the Narrows]. Stuyvesant to the Directors, April 26, 1664."

But any party feeling himself aggrieved may appeal to the Director General and Council of New Netherland, according to the custom here, from all judgments exceeding Fifty guilders, pronounced by said Commissaries.

And said Commissaries are hereby specially commissioned and authorized to enact proper Ordinances that the Cornfields and Gardens be carefully fenced, kept inclosed, and the broken fences properly repaired. They hereby command all inhabitants of the aforesaid Village who already are there, or who will hereafter come thither, to respect and acknowledge the aforesaid Commissaries for such as they are hereby qualified, and all that, until it be otherwise ordained by the Director General and Council aforesaid.

Thus done in Fort Amsterdam in New Netherland. Dated as above.

Note: The above court was composed of two Magistrates until 14th Feb. 1674 when two others were added making the number of Magistrates four. Tr." (O'Callaghan Laws and Ord. 458. Albany 1868.)

59. General Provincial Assembly held at New Amsterdam on the 10th of April 1664 to consider the state of the Province. Staten Island was represented by David de Marest, and Pierre Billou. (Brodhead 1: 728; New Amsterdam Records 5: 429-431, 450; Albany Rec. 18: 237; 22: 78-90, 105, 106, 145-182; O'Callaghan Hist. 2: 505-508.)
60. August 18th, 1664. Block house on Staten Island, near the Narrows, was seized by the British, and on August 29th New Netherland was surrendered by Stuyvesant to the English under Nicolls. (Brodhead Hist. 1: 738; 2: 24-37; Albany Records 18: 323, 324, 326; Col. Doc. 2: 250-253, 414, 415, 419-423, 429-447.)
61. 1666. Extract from answer of Hon. Peter Stuyvesant to the Observations of the West India Co. on his Report on the Surrender of New Netherland, 1666. Referring to Staten Island he says:

"It is inhabited only on the South side, behind the hill, and consequently out of sight of the fort, by 10 @ 12 men but so and so able to bear arms, who, in order to be protected against a sudden attack of the Savages, did, about a year ago, erect a small slight wooden Blockhouse, about 18 @ 20 feet square, in the center of

their houses, which were slightly constructed of straw and clap boards . . . its garrison consisted of 6 old soldiers, unfit to accompany the others against the Indians. The aforesaid Block-house and hamlet stood within sight of Najeck." (Col. Doc. 2: 443.)

52. 1668. Patent for two lots of land granted to Henry Hedger and Thomas Walton, 1st May 1668, recites:

"Whereas there are foure Lotts of Land upon Staten Island lying and being upon y^e Hill to y^e East of y^e Towne w^{hch} said Lotts were heretofore lay'd out Proportionably wth y^e rest of y^e Town Lotts" etc. (Record of Patents 3: 13.)

53. "The land granted Hedger and Walton was surveyed by Philip Wells April 4th, 1685, by command of Gov. Dongan, and Wells reported "have surveyed and Layd out for Thomas Walton a Certain tract of Land upon the hill to the East of the old towne." (Land Papers 2: 67.)

54. 1670. Name of Old Town first appears on map.—Old Town appears on a manuscript map showing New York, Long Island, and Staten Island, by Robert Ryder, Surveyor, 1670. Robert Ryder made a number of surveys on Staten Island, and was granted a patent for a large tract of land thereon. The map is in the possession of the New York Historical Society, and a photographic copy is in the possession of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences.

55. A Brief Description of New York formerly called New Netherlands by Daniel Denton, London 1670, which is the first English book on New York, contains the following extract: "Within two Leagues of New York lieth Staten-Island, it bears from New York West something Southerly: It is about twenty-miles long, and four or five broad, it is most of it very good Land, full of Timber, and produceth all such commodities as Long Island doth besides Tin and store of Iron Oar, and the Calamine Stone is said likewise to be found there: There is but one Town upon it consisting of English and French, but is capable of entertaining more inhabitants; betwixt this and Long Island is a large Bay, and is the coming in for all ships and vessels out of the Sea: On the North-side of this Island After-skull River puts into the main Land on the West-side, whereof is two or three Towns, but on the East-side but one. There is very great marshes or Meadows

on both sides of it, excellent good Land, and good convenience for the setting of several Towns; there grows black Walnut and Locust as their doth in Virginia, with mighty tall straight Timber, as good as any in the North of America; It produceth any Commodity Long Island doth."

Daniel Denton was the son of Rev. Richard Denton who moved to Hempstead, L. I., in 1644, build a Presbyterian Church, and was first minister on Long Island. Daniel Denton was a man of influence in the colony. He was one of the first settlers of Jamaica and became the magistrate of the town. He bought large tracts of land in New Jersey. Denton and another represented Long Island in the General Assembly which promulgated the Dukes Laws. In 1666 Denton became Justice of Long Island. The same description is found also in Ogilby 180.

66. 1671. "Order to Captⁿ. Jacques Cortilleau for laying out y^e Souldiers Lotts on Staten Island," June 14th, 1671.

"y^e Old Towne & y^e New Plantacon next unto it" are referred to therein. Francis Lovelace (N. Y. Executive Council Minutes 1668-1673 2: 489. Albany 1910.)

67. 1674. "Whereas, some of the inhabitants of Staten Island have complained to me of and against Peter Biljouw, the Schout of the aforesaid Island, I have therefore hereby resolved to commission and empower Mr. Cornelis van Ruyven and Captⁿ. Carel Epesteyn to repair by the first opportunity to the village on the aforesaid Island, and there to convene a meeting of the town; to examine the charges which will be brought against said Schout, to hear the debates on both sides, and if possible to compose the differences between them or else to report their conclusion. Done Fort Willem Hendrick this 22^d January, 1674." (Col. Doc. 2: 681.)

68. 1679. 11th Oct. 1679. "We went on to the little creek to sit down and rest ourselves there, and to cool our feet, and then proceeded to the houses which constituted the Oude Dorp. It was now about 2 o'clock. There were seven houses, but only three in which anybody lived. The others were abandoned, and their owners had gone to live on better places on the island, because the ground around this village was worn out and barren, and also too limited for their use." . . . After leaving 'Oude Dorp' and 'Nieuwe Dorp' "We had now no more villages to go to, but went from one plantation to another." (Jour. Danckaerts 72.)

69. Inventory of estate of Nathan Whitman of Staten Island made August 28th, 1679: "A House and land and 4 Erves¹¹ joining to the house, and 40 acres of land in the Old Town, 27 acres of land in the Close laid out by the Surveyor, and 8 acres of Bogg meadow, adjacent to the Erves, and 10 acres of meadow at the Great Killles. £75." (Collections of the New York Historical Soc. 1892. Abstract of Wills New York 1665-1707 p. 64 from Liber 1-2 Wills p. 259.)

70. 1698. Part of Paper endorsed "Jacob Melyen's Petition to His Excellcy Richard Earl of Bellomont etc."

Boston Nov. 30th 1698 [or 99] (a copy).

"The humble Petition of Jacob Melyen most humbly sheweth That yor Petitioners Father Cornelius Melyen by virtue of a Grant from the West India Company of Holland bearing date the Third of July 1640; was Governr & Proprietr of Staten Island in the Province of New York & was confirmed in the Governmt and Propriety thereof by Governr Kieft by a Patent bearing date the 19th of June 1642 and was in the quiet Possession and Enjoyment of the Governmt and Soyle of the sd Island as his rightfull inheritance, until he with his people [were] driven from thence by the Indians in the year 1643; and he was after that resettled thereon with diverse families, his servants, until another quarril was made at New-Amsterdam (now New York) with the Indians, Anno 1655 & were then cutt off upon Staten Island, having about twenty psons slain, who were of sd Melyen's Children, Nephews, Servants & Tenants. The Town consisting of about 40 houses, which were burnt, & the Goods made plunder off, & yo^r petitioners sd father & mother & two sons with all those that survived were taken into a barbarous Captivity by the heathen; Yor Excellcy's Petidir was one of the Sons who was much wounded, but recovered not without great difficulty." . . . (N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll. 1913. Melyn Papers p. 136.)

71. 1850-1. From Anthon's Notes made in 1850 and 1851 we extract the following:

P. 2. "'Oude Dorp,' so called by its original Dutch settlers. The first plantation there made by De Vries in 1639, had been destroyed Sept. 1641 by the Raritan Indians. All the details may

¹¹ Erve, erven, a Dutch term signifying the original village plots, so called, with such other house lots as had been granted or sold for that purpose by the town. (Riker 606. 1881.)

be found in Mr. Murphy's translation of De Vries, N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll. Ser. 1, Vol. III, and from a very careful consideration of them, the inference appears certain, that not only the plantation of De Vries, but also Director Kiefts distillery and buckskin factory afterwards set up, were at Oude Dorp. Here too chiefly must have dwelt Baron Van de Cappellen's colonists."

P. 3. "The Miller papers in N. Y. Historical Society Library endorsed 'Paper obtained from Old Judge Mersereau of Chenango, late of Staten Island—got. Dec. 4th, 1800' contain the reminiscence of Altie Widelar wife of Thos. Burbank and settl^d at V. Duzes. She s^d there was 2 or 3 houses at Old Town and at Carls-neck & the Indians run off the Island and murder^d at Old Town all except a little girl who run into the woods—the indian put on her father's clothes and Decoyed the Girl supposing it to be her father her they sav^d. The Indians came principally from Bergen." (See also Morris 1: 39.)

72. 1898. "The summer of 1641 witnessed the commencement of the building of Oude Dorp." (Morris 1: 32. 1898.)

73. "In 1624 Peter Minuit . . . arrived in the country, bringing with him several families of Walloons, . . . These settled at Oude Dorp, Staten Island, and Wahlebocht, Long Island, . . . while a number remained on Manhattan Island." (Morris 1: 55. See also Clute 14; Rep. N. Y. Commercial Tercent. 77–80. 1914; Stiles 1: 25. 1869.)

74. **Location of Old Town.**—The location of Old Town can be determined with considerable accuracy by remembering that villages were usually laid out around crossroads [see plan of Gravesend (1645) and Bergen (1660) on Map of New York Bay and Harbor by U. S. Coast Survey 1844–5, on file in the library of the Association], and that a crossroad or lane, separated the Mary Brittain Patent of 1686, for land "formerly laid out for 4 lots at the Old Towne (Record of Patents 5: 344; Land Papers 2: 87) from the Peter Neue patent of 1685 for land "laid out formerly for two lots at the Old Towne" (Record of Patents 5: 285; Land papers 2: 71), also that in the patent to Mary Brittain there was included a house lot at SE. corner of Peter Neue's land which was at the crossroads.¹² This point presumably the central point of Old

¹² For location of colonial patents see maps of Colonial Grants by George M. Root, on file in the Borough President's office.

Town is on Old Town Road, a little more than halfway from Sand Lane westward toward the sharp turn in Old Town Road. Buildings now occupied as a moving picture studio, on the south side of the road, are near the spot.

The Ryder map, which seems to be quite accurate, shows Old Town located in substantially the same place. The grants within the Old Town included (approximately) the tract bounded south and west by Old Town Road, north by Fingerboard Road, and east by Ocean Avenue extended to meet Fingerboard Road.

III. ERECTION OF THE FIRST CHURCH ON STATEN ISLAND

1650. First church erected . . . by Waldensians is the inscription on the tablet.

"1650. Stony Brook settled by Waldensians" and "First church on Island erected at Stony Brook," were selected and approved for inscription by the committee of 1906, as printed in PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 1: 83. Oct.-Dec. 1906.

75. 1655. The great massacre of the Waldensians occurred in April 1655 (Baird 1: 184.)

76. 1656. March 29th 1656, the City of Amsterdam subscribed funds for the distressed Waldenses. (Col. Doc. 1: 617.)

77. Some of the Waldensians, refugees, sailed for the South River, now known as the Delaware River, in Dec. 1656, in three vessels. One of the vessels went ashore near Fire Island Inlet on Long Island, March 8, 1657. Her company were saved, and proceeded in the other two vessels, and are said to have settled in Delaware.

(Baird 1: 183-186; Brodhead 1: 631-632; Vincent 284, 287; Scharf 1: 63; Albany Records 10: 455; 12: 405-411; O'Callaghan Doc. Hist. 4: 83; Col. Doc. 12: 184.)

78. 1664. Aug. 4th, 1664, Stuyvesant wrote in relation to assisting Huguenots who proposed to settle on Staten Island, and at their request suggests that a minister be sent to them. (Col. Doc. 14: 554-555.)

79. First preaching.—August 14th, 1664, Extract from letter of Rev. Samuel Drisius to the Classis of Amsterdam:

"The French on Staten Island would also gladly have a preacher, but their families are few in number and poor, . . . there is no probability that they will settle a preacher. In the meantime, that they may not be wholly destitute Gov. Stuyvesant, at their request, has permitted me to go and preach there every two months, and administer the Lord's Supper. This I have done for about a year." (Col. Doc. 13: 391.)

80. 1679. **Neither church nor minister.**—"There are now about a hundred families on the island, of which the English constitute the least portion, and the Dutch and French, divide between them about equally, the greater portion. They have neither church nor minister, and live rather far from each other, and inconveniently to meet together . . . in the event of not obtaining Dominie Tessemaker, they would send, or had sent, to France for another." (Jour. Danckaerts 70.)

81. 1682. Resolution of a Town Meeting on Staten Island about the pay of their minister, held June 19th, 1682.

"Att a Towne meeting held the 19th Day of June 1682 by ord^r of Rich^d Stillwell Esq^r one of his Ma^{ties} Justices of the Peace, Being put to vote whether the inhabitants would freely Consent that a Towne Rate should be forthwith made in ord^r to y^e Satisfaction & paym^t of M^r. Morgan Jones who by the Choice & at y^e desire of y^e Inhabitants aforesaid has Exercised the function of a Minister in this Island this yeare last Past. It was carried in the affirmative." (Col. Doc. 13: 556.)

82. Extract from letter Rev. Peter Tesschenmaker to the Classis of Amsterdam, Oct. 30th, 1682.

"P. S. I am going to Staten Island to engage in the ministry there, during the winter." (Eccles. Rec. 2: 836. 1901.)

83. 1683. At Schenectady, Dominie Tesschenmaeker, who, after leaving Newcastle, had been preaching on Staten Island. (Brodhead 2: 380.)

84. Petition of Francois Martinou, John Boulyn and Others of Staten Island Asking to be Excused from Contributing for the Support of a Minister. Jan. 15th, 1683.

85. Letters from Justice Stillwell to Secretary West in Relation to the Foregoing Petition, concerning the salary of Rev. Morgan Jones. Jan. 19th, 1683 and Jan. 24th, 1683. (Eccles. 2: 844-847. 1901.)

86. 1686. Rev. Rudolphus Varick to the Classis of Amsterdam, Sept. 9th, 1686.
"Upon the removal of Domine Tesschenmaker to Schenectady, the people of Staten Island have requested me to serve the Lord's Supper for them four times a year. This I have consented to do." (Eccles. Rec. 2: 922.)
87. 1688. Rev. Henry Selyns to the Classis of Amsterdam, Oct. 10th, 1688.
"We are glad to learn that you approve of Domine Dellius's remaining at New Albany, and of the transfer of Domine Tesschenmacker (from Staten Island) to Schenectady." (Eccles. Rec. 2: 957.)
88. 1690. "We have been compelled to depose Dom. Laur, Van der Bosch, called from Staten Island to Esopus." From letter by Henricus Selyns, Sept. 14th, 1690. (Murphy 116.)
89. New Rochelle's first minister was the Reverend David Bonrepos, who a few years afterward removed to Staten Island. (Brodhead 2: 625.)
90. 1691. Letter of Rev. Selyns from New Netherland, June 5th, 1691. Rev. Laurence van den Bosch, who had been called from Staten Island to Aesopus had been deposed from his ministerial office by them. (Eccles. Rec. 2: 1020.)
91. 1692. Letter Revs. Selyns, Varick and Dellius to Classis of Amsterdam, Oct. 12th, 1692.
"(The churches of) Bergen, Hackensack, Staten Island and Harlem have deserted us, yielding to the power of evil. They say that they can live well enough without ministers or sacraments." (Eccles. Rec. 2: 1041-1043.)
92. 1693. "Memorandum of all that was received by virtue of the Order or Authorization for the ransom of slaves in Salee, according to the special act of 1693.
Staten Island, French Church, £3.0.0." (Eccles. Rec. 2: 1063.)
93. An act for settling a Ministry and Raising a maintenance for them in the City of New York, County of Richmond, Westchester, and Queens County. [Passed Sep. 22, 1693] "for the County of Richmond, 40 pounds in County Produce at money price." (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 328.)

94. 1695. Meeting house in use.—A Description of the Province and City of New York with Plans of the City and Several Forts as they existed in the Year 1695, by the Rev. John Miller, contains a list of the churches, ministers, etc; throughout the Province. On p. 37 of the edition of 1862, and on page 55 of the Cleveland edition of 1903 we find:

"Countyes	Churches	Ministers	Familyes
Richmond	A Meeting House	Dr. Bonrepos	English 40
			Dutch 44
			French 36"

According to Bolton's History of Westchester County, Rev. David de Bonrepos was a French Protestant minister, who accompanied the first Huguenot emigrants from France. He was the first minister of New Rochelle.

95. 1696. 17th of July, 1696, James Hanse Dey conveyed to James Fetchett, a plot described as "Beginning at a flat rock below the (foorlezers) house." Other and later deeds have the same description; the word foorlezer, illegible in this, is supplied from later deeds. (Voorlezer in Dutch, is an ecclesiastical term signifying one who reads in church services.) (Liber B of Deeds p. 262.)
96. Register Boek van de K-K[?] Namen
der Kinderen Dewelck Gedoopt Bennen
op Staten Eylandt van d-
Beginne van het jaer anno 1696.

(The Baptismal register of the Dutch church of Staten Island commencing 1696), Printed in Stillwell's Historical and Genealogical Miscellany 1: 57. (See also Bayles 370.)

97. 1697. "James hanson dye and James fettchette have freely given unto ye Dutch Congregation for the space and term of fifty years for their use and benefit for y^e s^d term mentioned and that he w^{ch} lives on y^e s^d Land shall have y^e privilege of firewood for his necessity and also that y^e said Land shall be inhabited by no other as by y^e persons that serves y^e said congregation during y^e said term. 6th day of March, 1696-7." (Liber B of Deeds p. 340.)

98. **1698. First lot conveyed for church purpose.**—April 12th, 1698. A lot was conveyed to the French Congregashone or Church on Statone Island, "To Ereckt and build A Church upon the same" (near Green Ridge). (Liber B of Deeds p. 275; Morris 1: 50.)
99. **1699.** 29th of February, 1699, Hans Lawrence conveys to Thomas Cone, land lying at the head of the Fresh Kill, corner at "the house that belongs to the Dutch Congregation." (Liber B of Deeds p. 388.)
100. **1700.** "13th of March, 1700, Barent Tyse, and Teunis Egbertse, . . . have, to and with the consent of the Dutch Congregation . . . Sell Confirme and make over unto Louis du bois of the sd. County, Our house att the head of the fresh Kills, and the plancks thereunto belonging, which formerly was built for the Dutch Congregation, and for the service thereof, formerly used for the full space and ? as it was formerly expressed." (Liber B of Deeds p. 390.)
101. **1711.** Aug. 6th, 1711, William Tillyer conveys lot at head of Fresh Kill for the building of an English Church. (St. Andrews.) (Liber B of Deeds p. 584.)
102. **1713. St. Andrews church built.**—29th of June, 1713, Grant to the Corporation of the Church of St. Andrew. This grant recites "All that Stone Church called St. Andrew, and the Tenement and Lott of whereon it is built, Situate and being on Karles Neck At the head of the ffresh Kill, formerly granted by Wm. Tillyer for to build, the said church upon, and for a Cemetery or Churchyard." (Liber B of Deeds p. 629.)
103. **1729.** May 13th, 1729, Jacques Cortelyou conveys to the Elders and Deacons of the Presbyterian Society etc.
"Members of ye Presbyterian Society being destitute of a public Meeting House and now have built and erected, but as yet not furnished, a House for that end." . . . "a certain piece or parcel of Ground Situate lying and Being at Stony Brook" . . . "fronting to the Kings Main Road" . . . "whereon ye sd. Meeting House is now erected." (Liber D of Deeds p. 449.)
104. **1865.** Extracts from discourse by the Rev. James Brownlee at the Two Hundredth Anniversary of Settlement of Church on Staten Island, June 22nd, 1865.

P. 5. "It is not pretended that there are definite records of the establishment of a Church of our Denomination (Dutch Reformed) on this Island two hundred years ago." . . .

P. 29. "The first Church ever built on the Island was the little Church of the Waldenses at the settlement spoken of."

He refers to the settlement founded by Stuyvesant about 1662 at which ten soldiers were stationed, which we and others identify as Old Town. "It cannot be ascertained where this was situated, but tradition points to a spot on Flatbrook, south of what is known as "Black Horse" . . . "The County-seat was also formerly located near the same place." . . .

P. 30. It is known that Dom. Drisius preached to the church first spoken of (Church of the Waldensians at the settlement mentioned) for a considerable time, at intervals of a month or two months; and it is from inference that we conclude that a little church was organized, there and then, probably in 1664 or 1665.

105. 1875. Extract from address delivered in the Reformed Church, Port Richmond, by Rev. James Brownlee D.D., on the fortieth anniversary of his settlement, N. Y., 1875: "It is known that the Rev. Samuel Drisius, who was one of the pastors of the *Dutch Church* in New York, then New Amsterdam, from 1652 to 1682, preached regularly once a month to the Waldenses on Staten Island, from about 1660 onward."

106. 1877. "About the year 1665, the first church edifice built on the Island was the French or Waldensian Church at Stony Brook. . . . About the same year, 1665, there was another church built on the Island. This was a Huguenot church, and stood near the Fresh Kills, on what is now known as the Seaman farm." (Clute 255.)

107. 1887. "Subsequently in 1651 when the Waldenses arrived." (Bayles 81.)

108. 1898. "Ye settlement [Stony Brook] is located on a brook from which it derives its name. Ye chu^h is small and built of stone, . . . erected when ye village was founded in 1658." (Morris 1: 44.)

109. "It is said that in 1680 the scattered people had at last erected two houses of worship at points convenient for them to gather. One of these was at Fresh Kills in Westfield township, to which church came as pastor, in 1697, the Rev. David Bonrepos, who

remained 'til 1717, when the infirmities of age compelled him to give up his charge. The other French church in 1680 was at Stony Brook on the road to Perth Amboy, not far from Oude Dorp. Here the preaching was not exclusively French, for Dutch ministers are found in charge of it. Among others, we find in the records of many baptisms, the name of the Rev. Guillaume (William or Gilliam) Bertholf, who was pastor of the churches of Aququanonk (Passaic) and Hackensack in New Jersey, from 1694 to 1724." (Van Pelt 2: 462.)

IV. FRESH KILLS SETTLED BY FRENCH HUGUENOTS

1660. Fresh Kills settled by French Huguenots

is the inscription on the tablet.

110. **1662.** 15th of July 1662, Director Stuyvesant wrote in letter to the Directors in Holland, "6 men on Staten Island for the safety of the few inhabitants there." (Col. Doc. 13: 223.)
111. **1664.** August 4th, 1664, Director Stuyvesant wrote to the Directors in Holland, "You seriously recommend us, to treat with kindness the French families, which were to arrive here from Rochelle and from St. Martin, to allot to them good parcels of land and assist them in every way. . . . Seven or eight persons of that nationality came over for that purpose by the last ship . . . and being most pleased with Staten Island some of them, among them one Jean Collyn, addressed themselves to us and he said, for the better promotion and speedier execution of the plan, they had resolved that he should return in person by one of the ships and report to the others." They wanted a good French preacher sent over. (Col. Doc. 14: 554, 555.)
112. **1676.** March 1676. A considerable number of surveys for obtaining patents for land were filled on the above date; usually for 90 or 180 acres, "lying at y^e south of y^e Fresh kill upon Staten Island."

The names of these applicants are, Francis Sheartree, Richard Cornewell, Samuel Leete, Christopher Hoagland, Hans Christead, Carston Jonson, Jon: Edsall, Georg: Corbet, Jon: Sharpe, Henry Newton, Richard Stillwell, and Tho: Berryman. (Calendar of Land Papers 7, 8.)

113. **1679.** Oct. 1679. "There are now about a hundred families on the island, of which the English constitute the least portion, and the Dutch and French divide between them about equally the greater portion. They have neither church nor minister, and live rather far from each other, and inconveniently to meet together." (Jour. Danckaerts 70.)
114. **1685.** "It (S.I.) is peopled with above two Hundred ffamilies." Gov. Dongan, to Earl of Perth, N. Y. Feb. 13th, 1685. (Col. Doc. 3: 354.)
115. **1698.** April 12th, 1698. A lot was conveyed to the French Congreygashone or Church on Statone Island. "To Ereckt and build a Church upon the same." (At Fresh Kill near Green Ridge.) (Liber B Deeds p. 275; Morris 1: 50.)
116. Census of population on Staten Island in 1698: Men 328, Women 208, Children 118, Negroes 73. Total 727. (O'Callaghan Doc. Hist. 1: 467.)
117. **1877.** "Subsequently, in 1661, when the Waldenses arrived, and, after them, the Huguenots, the settlements at Old Town, and Fresh Kill received accessions." (Clute 31.) "About the year 1665, the first church edifice built on the Island was the French or Waldensian church at Stony Brook. . . . About the same year, 1665, there was another church built on the Island. This was a Huguenot church, and stood near the Fresh Kills, or what is now known as the Seaman farm." (Clute 255.)

V. DUTCH GOVERNMENT SUPPLANTED BY ENGLISH

1664. Dutch government supplanted by English is the inscription on the tablet.

118. **1664. Surrender of New Netherland.**—12th of March: Charles II, King of England, made a grant to his brother James the Duke of York, of the territory occupied by the Dutch. A part of the description of the territory granted, reads as follows, "Togeather alsoe with the said River called hudsons River and all the land from the West side of Conectecutte River to the East side of Delaware Bay." (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 1; N. J. Archives, 1 ser. 1: 3, 4.)

119. After receiving this grant, the Duke of York borrowed several men of war from his brother the King, and Col. Nicolls was appointed the commander of the expedition for the conquest of New Netherland, which set sail May 15th, 1664. It anchored at Nyack (in Gravesend Bay) the 18th of August, the approaches to New Amsterdam were blockaded, and the blockhouse on Staten Island, opposite the squadron, was occupied.

Col. Nicolls sent a letter to Director Stuyvesant on August 20th requiring his surrender, to which Stuyvesant replied on August 23rd. Col. Nicolls refused to argue the matter, and landed troops at Gravesend on August 25th; from there they marched to the ferry at Brooklyn. Articles of capitulation were agreed upon by representatives of Stuyvesant, and Nicolls, on August 27th, and New Amsterdam was surrendered to Col. Nicolls on August 29th, 1664. (Col. Doc. 2: 414, 415; 13: 393. See Brodhead 2: 20-37 for account with references.)

VI. STATEN ISLAND SEPARATED FROM NEW JERSEY

1668. Staten Island separated from New Jersey

is the inscription on the tablet.

20. 1664. 12th March 1664, Chas. II, King of England made a grant to his brother the Duke of York, described in part as follows: "Togeather alsoe with the said River called hudsons River and all the land from the West side of Conectecutte River to the East side of Delaware Bay." (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 1; N. J. Archives, 1 ser. 1: 3, 4.)

21. 23rd and 24th June 1664. The Duke of York executed deeds of lease and release, to Lord John Berkeley, and Sir George Carteret, granting to them, their heirs and assigns, all that portion of his tract "Lying and being to the Westward of Long Island and Manhitas Island and bounded on the East part by the Maine Sea and part by Hudson's River," "which said Tract of Land is hereafter to be called by the name or names of New Cesarea or New Jersey." (N. J. Archives, 1 ser. 1: 9-14; Brodhead 2: 82.)

122. 1665. The 10th of Feb. 1665, was signed and published a document called "The Concessions and Agreement of the Lords Proprietors of the Province of New Cesarea or New Jersey." At the same time Capt. Philip Carteret, a cousin of Sir George Carteret, was commissioned as Governor, and received his instructions from the Proprietors. Governor Carteret arrived at New York on the 29th of July, 1665. He chose, as a seat of Government, a spot on the north bank of "the Kill," where four families had already been settled under authority of Nicolls, and named it Elizabethtown. (Brodhead 2: 83-86, with numerous references; N. J. Archives, 1 ser. 1: 20-28.)
123. Almost the first step taken by Nicolls after his arrival, was to create from the English portion of the Province of New York, consisting of Long Island, Staten Island, and Westchester County, the Shire of Yorkshire, dividing it into three districts, or "ridings." (Col. Laws N. Y. 1, Historical Note, p. xi; Brodhead 2: 63.)
- For the laws of the province see Duke of York's Laws, 1665-75. (Col. Laws N. Y. 1, p. 6; N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll. 1 ser. v. 1, 1809.)
124. 1667. "A warrant from the Governo^r to the Inhabit^{ts} of Staten Island, empowering them to chuse civill officers. Whereas Mr. Nicholas Stillwell by y^e Mayo^r pt of yo^r Inhabit^{ts} beene elected Constable of yo^r Towne I have this day confirmed him in y^e s^d office for this ensueing yeare: You are hereby likewise appointed and authorized to chuse out of yo^r planta^{con}, two good and sufficient men to be Overseers, to whom y^e Constable may administer their oath, who with the said Constable shall have power to decide and determine all matters of debt & difference betweene you or any of you arising, under y^e value of five pounds & for what shall bee above the s^d sume, you are to have recourse to y^e Sessions at Gravesend upon Long Island, & in all other matters you are to bee guided according to the Rules prescribed in the Lawes for the Townes within this Governm^t. Given under my hand at ffort James in N. Y., this 7th day of Sept. 1667. R. Nicolls. To the Inhabit^{ts} of the planta^{con} upon Staten Island." (Col. Doc. 13: 415.)

25. Nov. 3rd, 1667 an order was issued, levying taxes for the Sessions house in the West Riding of Yorkshire to be built at Gravesend. (Col. Doc. 14: 603.)

26. 1668. On 19th of Feb. 1668, Gov. Nicolls issued "The Govern^{rs} Warr^t, sent to y^e Constable and Overseers of each Towne in y^e West Riding, About y^e Payment of their Proportions towards y^e Sessions House.

	£.	s.	d.
Gravesend	16	04	05
New Towne	26	02	3½
Bushwick	05	11	2½
Amesford	13	19	7½
Bruycklyn	15	03	11
fflat Bush	19	03	08
New Utricht	07		
Staten Island	06	14	10½
	<u>110</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>

(Col. Doc. 14: 604, 605.)

27. 1685. Governor Dongan to Earl of Perth: "Your agents have dispersed printed papers, to y^e disturbance of y^e inhabitants of Staten Island, It hath been in the possion of his R^{ll} High^{ss} above 20 years (except y^e little time y^e Dutch had it), purchased be Governour Lovelace from y^e Indynans, in y^e time of S^r George Carteret, without any p^rtences 'till y^r agents made claime to it, it is peopled with above two Hundred ffamilies. . . . N. York, ffebruary y^e 13th, 1685. Tho: Dongan."

(Col. Doc. 3: 354.)

28. 1877. "In 1668 the Island 'was adjudged to belong to New York' because one of the outlets of Hudson River ran around the Island. . . . The Duke of York himself appears to have had his doubts about the matter, for it is said that when this question of jurisdiction was first agitated, he decided that all islands lying in the river, or harbor, which could be circumnavigated in twenty-four hours, should remain in his jurisdiction, otherwise to New Jersey.

Christopher Billop, being then in the harbor in command of a small ship called the Bentley, which it is also said he owned, undertook the task of sailing around the Island, and accomplished it

within twenty-four hours, thus securing it to the Duke, who, in gratitude for the service rendered him, bestowed upon Billop a tract of 1163 acres of land in the extreme southern part of the Island, which was called the 'Manor of Bentley.' (Clute 47-48. See also Morris 1: 85, 136, 137.)

Clute as a preface to this story, stated (p. 47), "we shall be under the necessity of mingling, in some measure, tradition with legitimate history." How the story originated is not known. It has been repeated and amplified in later histories, but nothing is given to show what basis it rests on.

129. 1909. For numerous documents in the above matter see PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 3: 37-48. Oct.-Dec. 1909. (The Disputed Claim of the Proprietors of East Jersey to Staten Island, by Edward C. Delavan, Jr.)

VII. COURTHOUSE ERECTED AT STONY BROOK

1683. Court house erected at Stony Brook (county seat) is the inscription on the tablet.

"1683. Stony Brook made County Seat until 1729." "First County Court House, erected at Stony Brook." "Organization of Richmond County," were selected and approved by the committee of 1906 as printed in PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 1: 83. Oct.-Dec. 1906.

130. 1683. "AN ACT to divide this province & dependences into shires and Countyes. (Passed, Nov. 1st, 1683.) Having taken into Consideracon the necessity of dividing the Province into Respective Countys for the better governing and settling Courts in the same. Bee it enacted by the Governor Councell and Representatives, and by the Authority of the same, Thatt the said province be divided into twelve countys as followeth. . . . The County of Richmond to conteyne all Staten Island Shutters Island, and the Islands of Meadow on the West side thereof. . . ." (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 121.)
131. "AN ACT to settle Courts of Justice. (Passed Nov. 1, 1683.) . . . That in Every Towne in and throughout this province there be one Court held monthly and Every month throughout the yeare

on the first wednesday in the month for the hearing and determining of small causes:”—(decision by 3 persons). Court of Sessions shall be held “ffor the County of Richmond the first tuesday in March and the first tuesday in September.” Court of Oyer and Terminer “ffor the county of Richmond the third wednesday in October.” (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 125-127.)

I 32. Title page of Liber B in office of clerk of the County of Richmond. “The Book of Records for the County of Richmond, cominc^d March 1st, 1683.” There is a volume of court records marked “Records 1680-1760 Richmond Co.”; but so far as can be ascertained Liber B is the first volume of deeds.

I 33. 1696. William III Rex. to Nathaniel Brittain, Patent Dated 25th June 1696 for 100 acres. Bounded N & W by vacant land, East by the Highway [New Dorp Lane]. (Record of Patents 7: 39.) This vacant land to the west appears to be at Stony Brook or in its immediate neighborhood.

I 34. 1702. Anne Regina, to Joseph Billop and Abraham Lakeman Patent, Dated 30th June, 1702. Grants Parcel of land lying in the New Dorp (at or near Stony Brook). (Record of Patents 7: 206.)

I 35. 1704. “Confirmed by the Queen, May 20th, 1708. A Bill for the better Laying out Regulating Clearing and Preserving Publick, Comon Highways in this Colony and for the Erecting and Building a County Jaile and County House in the County of Richmond. (Passed June 27th, 1704.)

. . . And whereas there is wanting in the said County of Richmond a County Jaile and County House which the Inhabitants thereof are not enabled by a particular law to Assess Levy & Collect money for the building & Erecting the same. . . .” (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 573-4.)

I 36. 1705. 23rd March, 1704/5. Record of laying out of “Road from Curkold Towne to ye fferry” “in a Streight Line to Stoney Brook and over the Said Brook along the old way to the fferry or the watering place.” (Records 1680-1760, Richmond County, Stillwell 1: 54.)

I 37. 1706. Property immediately west of Stony Brook was conveyed by deed of Samuel Van Pelt, dated 29th Aug. 1706, to

Alexander Stuart "inholder" who was appointed County Clerk in 1708. (Liber B Deeds p. 562; Werner 540.)

138. 1708. Portion of record of laying out of Amboy Road, endorsed: "This is the maine or High Road from the watering place to Billopps agft Amboey."

"Thefe following Instruments was Recorded for the Commiffioners of y^e High Wayes, October the 27th, 1708.

Begining at ye fferry by the watering place from thence along as the Road hath been Some years ufed, to Stony Brook, and over the fd. brook between Hanfs Lowrences, ffence and the fwamp fo along between Stuarts ffence and fd Swamp to the Corner of fd Stuarts ffence, then running to the left hand etc. . . ." (Records 1680-1760 Richmond County p. 107; Stillwell 1: 52.)

139. 1717. In the Book of Records of the Court of Sessions the earliest mention of the Court being held at "Richmond town" is dated Sept. 2nd, 1729. The first mention of its being held at Stony Brook is March 5th, 1717. (Anthon, Book A, p. 4.)
140. 1723. "At a Court of Sessions held in the Court House at Stony Brook, on the 5th day of March, in the ninth of his Majestys' reign (1723) Benjamin Bill, Eq^r. high Sheriffe of the County of Richmond Complains to the Court of the Insufficiency of his majesty Goal" etc. (Clute 167.)
141. 1851. Saturday Evg. Sept. 14th, 1851. Judge Metcalfe says there is an entry at Richmond which he thinks he has seen by which record is made of the transfer of the Court House from Stony Brook to Cuckold's Town. (Anthon Notes, made in 1850-1, p. 71.)
142. 1877. Stony Brook was recognized as the County seat. (Clute 166; Morris 1: 113.)

The precise date of the removal of the county seat from Stony Brook to Richmond cannot now be ascertained. There is a record of a court held in the courthouse, at Stony Brook on the 5th day of September, in the second year of the reign of George II—1728. On the 6th day of March, 1729, a court was held in the courthouse at Richmond town. (Clute 459.)

VIII. COUNTY SEAT CHANGED TO RICHMOND AND SECOND
COURTHOUSE BUILT

1729. County seat changed to Richmond and second court house
built

is the inscription on the tablet.

"1728. Erection of second Court House at Richmond," and
"1729. County Seat removed to Richmond," were selected and
approved by the committee of 1906 as printed in PROC. STATEN
Is. Assoc. 1: 83. Oct.-Dec. 1906.

143. 1704. CHAPTER 144 Laws of 1704. Confirmed by the
Queen May 20th, 1708.

"A Bill for the better Laying out Regulating Clearing and Pre-
serving Publick, Comon Highways in this Colony and for the
Erecting and Building a County Jaile and County House in the
County of Richmond. (Passed June 27th, 1704.)

. . . And whereas there is wanting in the said County of Rich-
mond a County Jaile and County House which the Inhabitants
thereof are not Enabled by a particular Law to Assess Levy &
Collect money for the building & Erecting the same. Be it fur-
ther Enacted by the Authority aforesaid that the Justices of the
Peace for the said County or the Major Part of them at their
Quarter Sessions or otherways shall have full power to order Di-
rect and appoint under their hands the Building & Erecting Such
County Jaile & County House aforesaid on Such Convenient place
or places neer the middle of the said County (saveing the Prop-
erty of others) & to Calculate, Settle, agree, Estimate & Examine
the Charge of Such Erections & buildings hereinbefore menconed
which said Calculacon & Estimate of the Charges Provided the
Same do not Exceed the Sum of Two hundred pounds shall be
Delivered with a Warrant under the hands of the Justices into the
respective Assessors of each Division of the said County who shall
equally, Justly & Impartially Rate & Assess the ffreeholders &
Inhabitants of the Said County. . . . (Col. Laws N. Y. 1: 573,
574.)

144. "Ellius Duxbury Joseph Billopp, Daniel Locke Ephraim Tayler
and Abraham Lakeman, five of Her Majesties Justices of the
peace for the County of Richmond being met together on the
Eighteenth Day of September & in the Third year of the Reign

of our Sovereinge Lady Anne over England Scotland france and Ireland Queene Defender of the faith & Anno Dom- 1704 and by the Majority of Votes made Choice of Lambert Garriſon Sheriff Jaques Pollion Gen^t and Antony Tyse yeomen for to Looke for the moſt Convenient place in the Center of the Said County to build and Erect an Edifice on" [ends here]. (Records 1680-1700 Richmond County; Stillwell 1: 52.)

145. 1707. January The 28th, 1706-7. "Att a meeting of the Juſtices hereunder named and haveing under there conſideration of building a towne houſe and preſon according to Act of Aſſembly it is hereby ordred that the ſaid Towne houſe and preſon According to the Said Act be built at the head of the freſh Kill upon the Land of M^r. Rezoe and Lues Deboys provided mr. Rezoe and Lues Deboys do performe a promiſe they made by them of Giveing and Convaying the Ground promiſed by them before three of us for the uſe of a Town houſe and Preſon for the uſe of the County forever.

Ellis Duxbury

Joseph Billopp

John Stillwell

his
Abraham A Lakeman"

mark

(Record 1680-1760 Richmond Co. Stillwell 1: 42.)

146. 1710. In 1710 the priſon was built at "Cuckols towne" (Richmond) by order of the Court, as follows:—

"Ordered that Mr. Lambart Garisone and Mr. Wm. Tillyer (the late and then preſent Sheriff) See the priſon Houſe built at Cuckols Towne—y^e Dimensions Twelve foot in breadth, fourteen foot Long, Two ſtory high, ſix foot y^e Loer Room from beam to plank, and the upper Story Six foot, all to be built with ſtone, and for building of the ſd priſon the Said Undertakers have hereby power To take the Monys out of the Collectors hands for carying on the ſd work & the order of y^e ſd. Undertakers and Receipts ſhall be a Sufficient diſcharge to y^e ſd. Collectors." (Clute 168; Morris 2: 177.)

147. 1728. "An Act to Enable the Juſtices of the peace in the County of Richmond to build a County Houſe and a New Goal in the ſaid County. (Passed September 20, 1728.)

Whereas in and by vertue of an Act of General Aſſembly En-

tituled an Act for the better laying out regulating clearing and preserving publick common High Ways in this Colony and for the Erecting and building a County Goal and County House in the County of Richmond passed in the Third Year of Queen Anne it was amongst other things Enacted that the Justices of the peace of the Said County Should build a County Goal which said Goal being built Accordingly is now in Such a Condition that it is highly necessary to build a new one and Some Doubts and Scruples being made whether the same can be done and money raised for that and other purposes mentioned in the Act Aforesaid,

BE it ENACTED . . . that the Justices of the peace of the Said County or the Major part of them Shall be and hereby are fully Authorized and Impowered to raise within the Said County a Sum of mony not exceeding the Sum of Two Hundred pound for the building of a Goal & County House if the Major part of the JUSTICES of the peace of the Said County Shall think it necessary. . . . (Col. Laws N. Y. 2: 467, 468.)

148. 1729. March the 22th day, 1728/9. . . . "beginning by the Gole or gaile at Richmond town *fo* Running north *fide* of a Certain pond In the *faid* town and from thence Easterly. . . . [in place of] the Rode that now Runs one the *fouth fide* of the above *faid* pond that Leads from Richmond town to *ftoney* Brook formerly Laid out by Mr. Joseph billopp Jaquas pillion & nicholas Manning" . . . (Record 1680-1760 Richmond County; Stillwell 1: 44.)
149. "The precise date of the removal of the county seat from Stony Brook to Richmond cannot now be ascertained. There is a record of a court held in the court-house, at Stony Brook on the 5th day of September, in the second year of the reign of George II—1728. On the 6th day of March, 1729, a court was held in the court-house at Richmond Town." (Clute 459.)
150. "The earliest mention of the Court of sessions being held in Richmond is dated Sept. 2, 1729." (Morris 1: 80.)
151. "In the Book of Records of the Court of Sessions the earliest mention of the Court being held at 'Richmond town' is dated Sept. 2nd, 1729. The First mention of its being held at Stony Brook is March 5th, 1717." (Anthon, Book A, p. 4.)
152. 1741. "An Act to Enable the Justices of the Peace in the Colony of Richmond to Finish and Compleat their Court House. (Passed Nov. 7th, 1741.)

. . . Said Sum of Two Hundred pounds, has not been Sufficient to Finish and Compleat the Said Court House . . . a Sum not Exceeding the Sum of Twenty Pounds . . . Shall be Raised . . . to be applied for the use before Mentioned." (Col. Laws N. Y. 3: 167, 168.)

153. 1768. Mathias Swame to John Hillyer Jun. Nicholas Depuy, Richard Connor and Anthony Fountain Supervisors, conveys on the 15th day of July 1768 for the use and in behalf of the said County of Richmond for the privilege of the Court House Goal and Goaler's House now standing or to be put thereon. All that certain parcel of land situate at Richmond town. Beginning at the S. W. corner of Court House as it now stands—including 24 feet or thereabouts — heretofore granted by Richard Cole or William Tillyer to the sd County of Richmond for the use of settling a Court House. (Liber D Deeds p. 618.)
154. 1851. "Saturday Evg. Sept. 14, 1851. Judge Metcalfe says there is an entry at Richmond which he thinks he has seen by which record is made of the transfer of the Court House from Stony Brook to Cuckold's Town." (Anthon p. 71.)

IX. REBUILDING OF BRITISH FORTS BY THE AMERICANS

1812. Rebuilding of British Forts by the Americans is the inscription on the tablet.

Extracts from Wilson's Memorial History of the City of New York and from Military Papers of Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of New York 1807-1817.

155. 1807. "In 1807 the City was defenceless, the Narrows and the Hell Gate passage being without a fortification. In the spring of that year, the general government, alarmed at the drift of our foreign relations, began a systematic work of harbor fortification." (Wilson 3: 284.)
156. The History of Early Fortifications around New York City is given in Tompkins 1: 55-78.
157. 1808. Governor Tompkins was active in the matter of fortification at the Narrows. His letter of May 12, 1808, to Col. Jona, Williams favors works between Hendrick's Reef, and Signal Hill on Staten Island. (Tompkins 2: 78.)

158. Col. Williams furnished a comprehensive plan for the defenses at the Narrows dated Oct. 21st, 1808. (Tompkins 2: 138.) On the 4th of November, 1808, Governor Tompkins resolved to proceed on the above plan, and Nov. 17th, 1808, wrote to the Fortification commission which had been appointed, as to carrying out the work. (Tompkins 2: 161.)
159. 1809. Albany 21st Jan. 1809, "Pursuant to a law of this State appropriating \$100,000 for fortifying the port and harbor of New York, operations have been begun at and near Signal Hill, on Staten Island." (Tompkins 2: 185.)
160. 1810. The commissioners of fortifications, and Col. Williams, file their reports with the Governor, Feb. 6th, 1810. Col. Williams describes Fort Richmond and says Fort Tompkins is just begun. (Tompkins 2: 242-249.)
161. 1812. June 19th, 1812, Declaration of War by the United States. (Wilson 3: 237.)
162. 1813. July 2nd, A blockade of this port was instituted by the British. (Wilson 3: 275.)
163. 1814. Jan. 24th, 1814. "The defences at Staten Island now consist of Ft. Hudson, mounting forty-three twenty four pounders, Ft. Richmond, mounting 27 thirty two pounders, Fort Tompkins, mounting fourteen Cannon. Redoubt and Block House, mounting four eighteens, And a small battery to the south of Fort Tompkins, 9-24s, Making in the whole ninety seven cannon." Ft. Tompkins, cost estimated at \$100,000. An appropriation of \$50,000 recommended for the year. Dewitt Clinton to Gov. Tompkins. (Tompkins 3: 436.)
164. Sept. 23^d, 1814. "The main work at Staten Island, Fort Tompkins) being the principal object of the appropriation of the Legislature, has of course engaged our unremitting attention." (Tompkins 3: 533.)
165. May 28th, 1814, and Sept. 24th, 1814. Reports of Col. Williams, and Gen. Swift, on Staten Island fortifications. (Tompkins 3: 472-478.)
166. The works at the Narrows were far from complete. Col.

Jonathan Williams engineer in charge had changed the original plans, Fort Hudson was then completed. Fort Richmond nearly so, and another battery was contemplated in the rear of both. (Tompkins 1: 76.)

167. Dec. 25th, 1814. Treaty of Peace was signed between the United States and Great Britain. (Wilson 3: 290.)

108. "From 1808 to 1816 The State of New York appropriated \$272,000 for the fortifications on Staten Island and the defence of the port of New York. The report of the Secretary of War in 1818, shows that the only work now progressing in New York is Fort Lafayette, at the Narrows upon Hendricks Reef; will mount 96 cannon and cost \$275,000." (Tompkins 1: 77.)

The works at the Narrows were considered the outer line of defense, and of less importance than those near the city. The United States Government was active in building the latter, but left the works at the Narrows to be constructed by the State. The location of the forts constructed 1808-1816, is well shown on map of New York Harbor, by the U. S. Coast Survey, 1845, in the Association's collection.

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Publications of the Association

1. PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF STATEN ISLAND

These PROCEEDINGS were printed in octavo numbers, partly in leaflet and partly in pamphlet form, from November 10, 1883, to June 3, 1905, and are included in nine volumes, separately indexed.

They may be obtained by members and patrons at \$1.50 per volume. To others the price per volume is \$3.00.

Single numbers of back volumes may be obtained at 10 cts. each, except the following, for which a uniform price of 50 cts. each will be charged:

Special No. 21, Vol. V, No. 5, March 14, 1896, "Staten Island Names, Ye Olde Names and Nicknames." Wm. T. Davis. Pamph., p. 56, and map by Chas. W. Leng.

Special No. 22, Vol. VII, No. 15, March 10, 1900, "Colonel Francis Lovelace and His Plantations on Staten Island." Edward C. Delavan, Jr. Pamph., p. 33, *pl. 1-4*.

Special No. 23, Vol. VIII, No. 25, October 1903, "Supplement to Staten Island Names, Ye Olde Names and Nicknames." Wm. T. Davis. Pamph., p. 22 and map.

Only a limited number of complete sets of the older volumes is now in stock, and orders for these will be filled in the order of application. The right is reserved to withdraw any part or numbers from sale at any time.

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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VOLUME I, with Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index, contains Parts I-IV, June 1905-May 1907, p. 1-136, *pl. 1-3*.

VOLUME II, with Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index, contains Parts I-IV, October 1907-May 1909, p. 1-251.

VOLUME III, with Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index, contains Parts I-IV, October 1909-May 1911, p. 1-216.

VOLUME IV, with Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index, contains Parts I-IV, October 1911-May 1913, p. 1-148, *pl. 1, 2*.

VOLUME V, with Title Page, Table of Contents, and Index, contains Parts I-IV, October 1913-May 1915, p. 1-155, *pl. 1-7*.

The Act of Incorporation, Constitution and By-Laws, etc. (pamph. 8vo, p. i-xxv, 1906) and the special "Memorial Number," issued in commemoration of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the organization of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island (pamph., 8vo, p. i-xxxvii, 1907), will be sent free on application.

3. THE MUSEUM BULLETIN

Monthly octavo leaflets, containing official notices of meetings of the Association and sections, important items of business transacted by the Board of Trustees, and descriptive items concerning the museum exhibits and activities. Begun in August 1908. Current numbers sent free on application. Back numbers 2 cents each.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION

OF

ARTS AND SCIENCES

EDITED BY

PHILIP DOWELL

ARTHUR HOLLICK, WILLIAM T. DAVIS

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FIG. 1. Grasses at the southwest end of the partly drained lake bottom



FIG. 2. *Typha latifolia* at the northeast margin of the water

HOLICK : SILVER LAKE BASIN

Photographs by H. H. Cleaves

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION
OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES

VOL. VI OCTOBER 1915—JANUARY 1916 PART I, p. 67—111

Additional Notes on the Botany of the Silver Lake Basin¹

ARTHUR HOLLICK

(WITH PLATE I)

At our meeting of October 17, 1914, I described and discussed the general characters of the vegetation that had taken possession of the drained bottom of Silver Lake during the first year of its exposure as a land area. (See PROC. STATEN IS. ASSOC. 5: 60-65, *pl.* 2-5). On October 14 of this year another series of botanical specimens was collected in order to determine what species had continued to exist and what new ones had become established during the second year of exposure and desiccation of the old lake bottom silt.

The species noted as most abundant last year—especially the sedges, low grasses, and herbaceous plants common in the immediate vicinity—have largely disappeared, and in their place is a more extensive growth of the larger, coarser species of grasses, such as *Echinochloa Crus-galli* (L.) Beauv. and *Panicum dichotomiflorum* Michx., and two interesting newcomers, *Andropogon Virginicus* L. and *Phragmites Phragmites* (L.) Karst. (PL. I, *f.* 1). The former is, with us, mostly a dry-ground species and the latter has not been recorded heretofore from north of the

¹ Presented at the meeting of the Association October 15, 1915.

serpentine ridge, the nearest station being at Oakwood, several miles distant. Around the margin of the pool of water which yet remains in the deepest part of the basin a dense stand of *Typha latifolia* L. has become established (PL. I, f. 2), all the fertile spikes of which are deeply constricted above the middle. I have previously seen this character in isolated specimens but never before as a prevailing feature of the species. This stand probably originated from seed blown from the few plants growing at the upper end of the Clove valley. A number of seedlings of *Salix nigra falcata* (Pursh) Torr. have also found a soil that evidently suits them there, and their origin is somewhat problematic, inasmuch as this variety has not heretofore been reported from Staten Island and the species is not known elsewhere in the vicinity.

As an ecological subject of study Silver Lake basin has proved to be of considerable interest. The ground exposed by the draining of the lake is virgin soil, so far as terrestrial and semiaquatic vegetation is concerned, and the fact is significant that several species new to our local flora, and others previously unknown in the vicinity, immediately established themselves there. Apparently these plants had not heretofore found suitable soil conditions in any of the adjacent marshy areas, or else these areas were too densely populated by other species better able to prevail in the struggle for existence. It would be interesting to note what the dominant floral elements would be after a lapse of several years; but it is doubtful if existing conditions will continue through another season.

In order to obtain an adequate idea of the change that has taken place in the flora during the past year the views selected to illustrate this paper may be compared with certain of those used to illustrate the first paper on the locality, previously mentioned. Thus, *figure 1* of PLATE I represents the present appearance of the same portion of the lake basin as is shown in *figure 1*, PLATE 2, volume 5, and *figure 2* of PLATE I represents almost identically the same point of view as *figure 2*, PLATE 2, volume 5.

Housman's Cave¹

ARTHUR HOLLICK

(Photograph by H. H. Cleaves)

In the sloping hillside facing Richmond Turnpike near the junction of Little Clove Road is Staten Island's only remaining cave. The hill, some thirty or forty years ago, was beautifully



wooded with large beech and oak trees and the finest grove of white pines on the island. A thick growth of underbrush screened the entrance to the cave and it could not be seen until the searcher had made his way through the protecting screen and was in its immediate vicinity. Most of the trees have died during

¹ Presented at the meeting of the Association October 15, 1915.

recent years or have been cut down, and fires have destroyed nearly all of the underbrush; but even now the entrance is not conspicuous and would be likely to escape the attention of any casual observer a short distance away.

It has been a matter of surprise to me to learn that so many of our residents are apparently unaware of its existence, and as it is almost certain to be destroyed before very long I have thought it advisable that the attention of our members should be called to it and an illustrated record be prepared for our PROCEEDINGS.

At the meeting of the Association on October 10, 1903, Mr. William T. Davis read a paper on Staten Island Caves,² in which he says "this cave is not a natural one; but according to local history it and some other holes in the hillside were dug, shortly after the Revolution, by Housman and his negro servant in their search for gold." What Housman's given name may have been I have not been able to find any record. Clute, in his *Annals of Staten Island* (p. 121), refers to him as "a young man named Housman [who] resided in the vicinity of the Four Corners," and says (p. 122): "This same Housman, in after years, conceived the idea that there was great mineral wealth in the hills about the Four Corners, and with the aid of a negro commenced mining operations in the side of the hill, in what is called 'Dongan's wood' . . . the excavation which he made in the solid rock . . . may be seen at the present day." Anthon's notes on the history of Staten Island, according to information kindly furnished me by Mr. C. G. Hine, likewise contain merely a very vague reference. Mr. Hine's memorandum is as follows: "All Anthon says is 'on the property lately belonging to Walter Dongan is a cave. The grandfather of the present Housman dug it to get gold after a dream.' That is all he has to say. At another point he speaks of talking with *Isaac* Housman who, I think, was living in the Black Horse Tavern at the time (1853). This may be 'the present Housman'; but this is a mere guess." That is all that I have been able to ascertain in regard to the origin of the cave.

² Proc. Staten Is. Assoc. 8: 67. October 10, 1903.

The hill is composed of soapstone or serpentinitoid rock and where the cave is located the jointing is strikingly conspicuous. Evidently excavation was made comparatively easy by taking advantage of this natural feature and as a result the sides and roof present even surfaces with sharply defined corners where the joint planes intersect, giving the appearance of having been carefully cut or blocked out. The rock is somewhat more dense and dark in color than is characteristic of the surface rock in general throughout the region, but otherwise it is no different in its characters, and there is no apparent reason why this particular outcrop should have been selected as possibly gold-bearing.

The First Business Directory of Staten Island¹

IRA K. MORRIS

During the busy years, back in the eighties and nineties, when I was giving much time to the gathering of material for a history of Staten Island, one of the kindest friends I met with was counselor David J. H. Willcox, of New Brighton. No one could have taken a more earnest interest in my work than he, and in various ways he aided me. Among my most valued treasures in the line of relics are those which came from his kindly hand, and one of these is a copy of the first edition of Staten Island's first business directory, which was issued in September 1862.² It is a small pamphlet, almost a vestpocket edition in size, of thirty-two pages. The first page bears the caption TO THE PUBLIC and the following text:

"Believing that such a little book as this would be found useful to the residents of Richmond County, I am bold enough to publish it; and if it should prove so, I shall feel fully compensated for my labor. To the advertisers who have so liberally aided me, bearing most of the expense, I return my thanks, and hope that the public will make good the outlay by increased patronage.

"I am much indebted to Messrs. George J. Greenfield, Frank W. Conner, and the several Town Clerks for their valuable assistance and the uniform kindness they have shown me.

"I propose to issue another edition after the County Election, and shall continue to do so from time to time, as the alteration of the time tables, &c., &c., may make necessary. I shall use every exertion to make this a valuable advertising medium, and shall endeavor to make the contents reliable and interesting. I shall feel grateful for the correction of any errors that may appear."

Yours, very respectfully,

Castleton, S. I., Sept., 1862.

HENRY E. TUDOR.

Office, 44 Ann Street, New York.

¹ Presented at the meeting of the Association November 20, 1915.

² Richmond County | Register | First Edition | Please Preserve This for Reference | New York | Henry E. Tudor, Publisher | No. 44 Ann Street.

Three pages are occupied by A Short Sketch of Richmond County, from which I quote verbatim as follows:

"The first mention we have of our beautiful Island, is made by Hendrich Hudson, in his account of his memorable voyage, on which he discovered New York Bay and the noble Hudson. The part of the account relating to Staten Island, or *Staaten Eylandt*, as it was afterward named, is meagre indeed. That it was first seen on the 3d day of September, 1609; that it was inhabited by a tribe of Indians, (Mohicans,) and that Seals were numerous at the back of the Island, is about all that we can learn from his account.

"Robins' Reef, off the North-Eastern point of the Island, was a favorite resort of these animals, and derives its name from the fact. It was originally called '*Robyns' Rift*,' meaning the Seal's place—*Robyn* being the name used for Seal.

"Staten Island was first purchased from its Indian inhabitants for Michael Paun¹ [Pauw], one of the Directors of the West India Company, together with an extensive tract in Bergen County, New Jersey, by deed dated August 10th, 1620, and the whole tract received the name of *Pavonia*. It was called by its Indian owners *Aquehioneja*, *Manackoug* or *Eghquaous*, which, translated, means the place of *Bad Woods*, referring, probably to the character of its original inhabitants. It was a very desirable spot with the primitive Dutch settlers, and the Indians, who seem never to have considered that they lost the right of possession by sale, were always willing to convey for a consideration. They resold the Island in June, (19th,) 1642, to Cornelius Melyn, a Dutch Burgomaster, and subsequently, in 1657, to Baron Van Cappelán. Both of these proprietors made improvements; but the colony founded by the latter was broken up by the Indians from the Raritan, who murdered and dispersed his people. Melyn subsequently obtained the exclusive title, and claimed to be independent of New Amsterdam. He is mentioned as having given Governor Stuyvesant much trouble. On the 14th day of June, 1659, he conveyed his rights to the Company. This Island

was again purchased from the Indians by Governor Lovelace, April 18th, 1670, and, from this date, the progress of the colony became uninterrupted and permanent.

"Richmond is an original County, and was organized November 1st, 1683, and divided into four towns, all of which were organized March 7th, 1688. It comprises Staten Island, Shooter's Island, and all the Islands of meadow on the West side of Staten Island. . . . The Island is based upon primitive rock, which rises in the centre into a ridge, with a breadth ranging from one to two miles, and running longitudinally through the Island. These hills afford varying and delightful prospects. From their summits may be seen on a clear day the ever growing city, with its forest of masts and glistening spires; the broad Bay, studded with Islands and whitened with the canvas of countless ships and myriads of steamboats; Long Island with its swelling hills and richly cultivated farms; the shining beach of Coney Island; the coast of New Jersey, in a circular sweep of 40 miles, from Paulus Hook to the Nevesink Hills, with Sandy Hook, and last, the wide Atlantic opening between the Hook and Long Island. All combine and form a view unrivaled in beauty, which it is impossible to describe, but must be seen to be appreciated.

"Building sites on these hills are held and sold at what seem extraordinary prices, and are being rapidly built upon. In fact, the North-Eastern side of the Island is one perfect garden, abounding with elegant residences, and delightful drives. Among the latter the Serpentine and Ocean Terrace are justly favorites.

. . .

"The ponds, wells and springs of the Island contain a soft water, holding no lime in solution. The Island contains some thirty thousand inhabitants, and within its small limits has over thirty churches of various denominations, each having a regular pastor."

Each of the five townships in the county also receive brief descriptive mention, as for instance:

"CASTLETON. Located in the North-Eastern part of the Island,

contains the villages of New Brighton, Elliottville, [Livingston] and Factoryville. [West New Brighton.] . . . The Pettler Hotel [subsequently St. Marks and later Castleton] and the Pavilion are large and fashionable establishments, usually well patronized during the summer months. . . . The dyeing business is extensively carried on in this town.

“MIDDLETOWN. This town, formed in 1860 from Castleton and Southfield, contains the villages of Stapleton, Egbertville, Centerville [Castleton Four Corners] and part of Tompkinsville. . . . The land lies very high towards the North-East part of the township; the hill directly back of Tompkinsville attains an elevation of 310 feet. The mansion of the late Governor Tompkins is situated on this hill. The ‘Richmond County Gazette’ and the ‘Staten Islander,’ weekly papers, are published in this town.

“Clifton Park, Silver Lake, and Constant’s [Eckstein’s] Brewery are favorite places of resort for thirsty excursionists.

“NORTHFIELD, located in the North-Western part of the Island, has some good farming land, but toward the West consists of broad marshes. . . . It contains the villages of Port Richmond, Mariners Harbor, Graniteville, Chelsea, Long Neck and Springville. The manufacture of steel and white lead are carried on in this town. The oyster business also, furnishes employment to many of the inhabitants.

“The Excelsior Poudерette Company have extensive works at Long Neck in this town.

“The excellent ferry accommodations furnished the residents of the North Shore by the new ‘*People’s Line*,’ affording them almost hourly communication with the City, at a reduced fare, has been of great benefit to this part of the Island.

“SOUTHFIELD, on the South-East part of the Island . . . contains the villages of Clifton, New Dorp, and a part of the County Seat of Richmond. This latter village lies partly in three towns. . . . An association of gentlemen have extensive grounds in this town, containing a Race Course, Club House, &c. Cedar Grove, on the shore, was formerly a resort for pleasure parties for bathing, &c., but of late years has been but little frequented.

"WESTFIELD is located in the South-Western part of the Island. . . . The principal villages are Tottenville at the extreme end of the Island, on the Kills opposite Amboy, and connected with the latter place by a ferry. It is the terminus of the Staten Island Railroad, which has given quite an impetus to the growth of the place. Biddle's Grove in this village is a favorite resort for picnics, excursions, &c. Rossville, also on the Kills, about 4 miles North-East from Tottenville, contains many fine residences. In certain parts of this town are unusually productive farms."

Lists are given of all the county and town officers, fire department organizations, churches, attorneys and counsellors at law, physicians, and post offices. Among the latter may be noted North Shore in Castleton and South Side [Annadale] and Lemon Creek [Pleasant Plains] in Westfield. The location of the North Shore post office is not indicated; but inasmuch as there was one at New Brighton and others at Port Richmond and Mariner's Harbor it was probably somewhere in between, at what is now West New Brighton.

The timetables of the railroad, ferries, and stage lines are interesting when read in the light of our present transportation facilities to and from and through the island.

The only steam road, the Staten Island Railroad, from Vanderbilt Landing to Tottenville, maintained the following week days schedule:

"*Leave Vanderbilt Landing* on the arrival of the 7 and 9 A. M. and 1, 4 and 6 P. M. boats from New York.

"*Leave Tottenville* at 7.10 and 9 A. M.; 1, 3.50 and 5.50 P. M., connecting with the 8 and 10 A. M., and 4 and 6 P. M. boats for New York."

Evidently there must have been very little passenger traffic on Sundays, inasmuch as there was only one train each way in the morning and two each way in the afternoon.

The east shore or Staten Island Railroad ferry (old line) ran boats every hour each way, between Vanderbilt Landing, Stapleton and Tompkinsville and foot of Whitehall St., New York,

from 6 a. m. to 7 p. m., and one boat from Port Richmond, which made four trips on week days each way and three on Sundays.

The North Shore Staten Island Ferry Company served the people of that region as follows: boats left Elm Park on week days at 6.15, 9, and 10.30 a. m.; 12.30, 2, 3.15, and 5 p. m., touching at Port Richmond, Factoryville, Snug Harbor, and New Brighton. The return trips, from pier 18, North River, were at 7.45, 9.15, and 11 a. m.; 12.30, 2, 4, 5, and 6.30 p. m. On Sundays the trips were less frequent and Snug Harbor was not a stopping place.

There is also a notice which says: "The steamboat George Law leaves New Brunswick every morning, except Sunday, at 6 A. M., touching at Totten's Dock and Rossville; and leaves New York, foot of Robinson Street, North River, at 3 P. M."

Stage lines, long since things of the past, are scheduled as follows:

"Thompson's Stage leaves Hillyer's Corner, near Richmond, at 6.40 A. M. and 3 P. M., passing through Springville, Bull's Head, and Graniteville, to Port Richmond. Leaves dock of new line, Port Richmond, at 10 A. M. and 5 P. M., on the arrival of the 9 A. M. and 4 P. M. Boats from New York.

"Williams' Stages leave Richmond at 7.45 A. M. and 2.45 P. M.; Vanderbilt Landing on the arrival of the 9 A. M. and 4 P. M. boats from New York."

Among the advertisers are some names that sound familiar to many of us today, such as John Steers, "cabinetmaker and undertaker"; Benedict Brothers, "importers and manufacturers of fine watches, jewelry, and silverware;" Bodine Brothers, "dealers in anthracite and bituminous coals, pine, oak and hickory wood, timber, lumber, & all kinds of building materials;" George J. Greenfield, "attorney and counsellor . . . Deutscher Advocat . . . etc.;" but, most of them are indistinct memories only. Among the latter may be mentioned George E. Greene, "dealer in ice cream, fruits, confectionery, &c., Richmond Terrace one door from Jersey St., New Brighton," who was the chef and

caterer for the elite of Staten Island at that time; J. W. Bassett, "member of the London Pharmaceutical Society, &c.," with drug-stores at Tompkinsville and New Brighton where "he has also on hand a supply of stationery necessary for schools, such as copy-books, slates, Faber and other pencils, drawing paper and board, perforated card, camel hair pencils, and color boxes"; the Richmond County Collegiate Institute, Clifton, "for young ladies and gentlemen, also boarding school for boys and girls. A. T. Deane, Principal."

Extracts from the Letter-Book of Captain Alexander McDonald
of the Royal Highland Emigrants, 1775-1779¹

IRA K. MORRIS

Captain Alexander McDonald was an old line officer of the British Army, who came to this country with his command just prior to the Revolution and settled on Staten Island, where he pretended to own a farm.

On glancing over his Letter-Book, through the courtesy of the New York Historical Society, we find him to be a very strenuous Royalist, who uses the most bitter language about the Americans, whom he delights to class as "Rebels." He was an unreasonable extremist in whatever he said or did. Several times he had the Continental army wiped off the face of the earth—theoretically.

The first letter we find in his book was addressed to General Gage, in the summer of 1775. If, however, he was no better soldier than grammarian, he certainly did very little harm to his enemies. He suggests to General Gage that Staten Island would furnish fresh provisions for his army. He goes on to tell how easily the armed sloops of the British Navy, while on their way from Sandy Hook to Albany, "Taking in Staten island, they might Burn and Destroy Brunswick & amboy, for nothing can cure the Madness that prevails all over America but the Severest of usage."

On November 4, 1775, Captain McDonald writes to Walter and Thomas Buchanan as follows:

"Pray for god sake Let me know why the people of New York and thereabouts has pronounced Sentence of death on me, is it because I would not offer such violence to my honour and Conscience as to falsify my oath of fidelity and allegiance and take

¹ Presented in abstract at the meeting of the Association November 20, 1915.

up arms against a Master whom I have served for thirty years and in a Cause of which I always entertained a bad Opinion and always believed, and does not now, that it will terminate in the destruction of the Authors of it, for which I am very sorry, they should Merit the treatment I am afraid they will meet with, I am not an Enemy to any individual upon Earth, nor have a Grudge against any, and I dont wish to meet my friends or old acquaintances in a place where they or I must fall, yet I am determined to be true to the trust reposed in me, and discharge my duty with honour or a Long as I Live and Whoever Criminal the friends of the Congress may think this Conduct in me, why should an innocent woman with her Children be troubled as my wife was soon after my Coming away from Staten Island. A parcel of fellows went to my house with more than Savage rudeness, rummaged the house as they pretended for arms, swore they would have me dead or alive, and frightened her out of her Senses, by whose order they went I am not able to Learn, but whoever ordered them he is not a sound pollitician for I think he had better secure my friendship than by this behavior making me a more Inveterate Enemy than otherwise I might be. The affairs of America are not far from being settled and it is as hard to know how Matters will turn out, and upon the whole I think they might as well make me a friend as force me to be a more inveterate enemy than otherwise I should incline to. I'll Cut short and Say No more on this Subject but that I wish to God a Mode of reconciliation between Great Brittain & her Colonies Consistent with the dignity and Grandeur of Great Brittain as well as the interest and happiness of America—"

Captain McDonald went with his command to Halifax, while the wife and children remained on Staten Island. On March 28, 1776, he writes, calling her "My Darest Life." As near as I can locate the farm it is now known as the Decker estate in the old town of Northfield.

"I would wish that I had but you & the children along with me," he writes, "and yet the fear of Exposing you to Eminent

danger, and God knows what trouble forbids my incouraging you to move from where you are, if you can but remain with any degree of ease or Comfort, and more particularly as I have some hopes of being able Coming to see you this Summer as I hope a varst Number of troops will be Landed there as well as in a great many other parts of America—but I shall Say nothing about Polleticks—the deluded Americans will be Convinced of their Error. Proposals are going to be made to them which if they will Agree to, good and well, and if they refuse them, it is not only Great Brittain but all europe that stands ready to Crush them: this they will not believe 'til they find it's too Late—for gods sake fail not to write often if you can find any Opportunity of putting them aboard of the man of war."

After regretting his inability to have his wife and children with him at Halifax, Captain McDonald adds: "Surely the people [on Staten Island] has not got so barberously mad as to Molest or hurt a poor innocent woman and still more Innocent poor Children and Especially till they know how Matters are to be settled in America. Should you form a Resolution of Coming to me with the Children, I have given directions to the Commanding officer of His Majestys Ships in the harbor of New Yorke to Send you all the assistance In his power, and procure you a passage in any of his Majestys Ships that Should Come this way; it's to be hoped you will be allowed to depart in peace and dispose of as much of your Effects as you dont chuse to Carry along with You. You may bring as much Corn, oats, wheat or flour, Gammons, & fowls, of all Sorts as you can possibly get aboard. David & Donald & Gilbert if he chuses shall Come along with You, all this is only in Case you should Chuse to Come, but if you could live happy and at peace where you are, I would Like it better as I think it was best for you, for a Little time 'til I am able to know how Matters are Like to go. . . Kiss the Children for me and with my best wishes and kind respects to all friends, I ever am my Dearest Your affectionate Husband & most obedient Very humble Servt."

Writing from Halifax, April 24, 1776, to J. Ogilvie, presumably on Staten Island, he adds:

"I am at a Loss to know whether we shall have rank or half pay—if we Shall not the Ministry will be guilty of the most barbarous Cruelty that ever was known, Especially to us who has been Cumfortably Situated and Left our wives and Children to the Mercy of a Merciless Enemy, and at the Risque of our Lives flew to the defence and preservation of the honour intrest and dignity of our King & Country. Should Such of us as Survives these troubles be turned about their business, without rank or half pay, after this Unnatural Rebellion is Quelled—might be Attended with bad Consequences upon a future Occasion but for my own part I don't believe we shall meet with so Much injustice," etc.

In the early summer of 1776, Captain McDonald writes to General Howe, in a very unhappy vein, in consequence of his failure in promotion, beginning: "Tho I find the footing I am on at present, irksome from its unpromising Prospect, & tho from Your Excellency's Rank & Character, you are the Personage to whom I would naturally look up for any relief, it might require, or reasonably Admit of; yet, Sensible that Amidst the Weight of publick Affairs which Occupied Your Mind, it would have been improper to trouble you while here, I take the Liberty of Laying My Case before You in this manner & time, humbly persuaded that if anything worthy your Attention will happily Occurr, you will be pleased to forgive the freedom & in that event also will experience in You the Patron of An Old Soldier.

"It is now going on thirty two Years since I enter'd the Service, in the Course of which I lost many Chances, tho I Underwent All the Vicissitudes, fatigues & dangers that commonly fall to the Share of a Man without Money or any Considerable Interest. However as I enjoy'd, so I flatter Myself I never deserve to forfeit the Esteem & regard of my Superior Officers. I was in the Most Active Scenes of the last war that were exhibited in the West Indies & the Southern Provinces of this Continent, was

Sorely wounded, & After the Peace was reduced Captain Lieutenant of Coll. Montgomery's.

"After All this I married & Settled on Statten Island in the Province of New York, where from the Uhappy Spirit that has Actuated the Americans for Years past I had frequent Opportunities of doing My Duty in defending the Authority of the Parent State over the Colonies as much As was possible for any private Subject—As far as my inferior Judgement could enable me, I Made it My business to Observe wherein the root of the Evil lay, & the means fit for exterminating or Conquering it, Never doubting but Matters would proceed to the present Extremitys, if Not in My day, at Least Not at Any distant period—In time of the Stamps I offered Myself to the Commander in Chief for any Service he might require, & thereafter began to prepare for taking the part I clearly saw my duty would demand & that Shortly too—In the Mean time the Methods, which have been but too Successfully Used to withdraw Other Unhappy half Pay Officers from their Allegiance, were Also applied to me.

"The Temptation of a very Command was held forth, but rejected with Indignation: that of peculiar Support & Interest from My American allies was offered would I but remain peaceable & neutral at home: to this I could not reconcile my Mind, while My King and Country were reviled, & their Laws treated with Contempt—And when I saw they were on the very point of Commencing the Rebellion, I wrote to Major John Small, who was Connected with me in all these Endeavours desiring he would inform General Gage that I would join the Army with 100 good men, how soon His Excellency would enable me by granting a Captains Commission—The General was pleased to order Major Small to return me his thanks for my Loyalty & Spirited offers, but that Nothing could be done till further orders from home—In the mean time this hint was farther improved & in place of 100 it was proposed to raise 500 Men to be Commanded by Major Small: to which I entered with the greatest Pleasure, & it being recommended home from the General we did not doubt its being Adopted.

"In consequence I Sett off in the dead of Winter to the Mohawk River, where a Number of the Name of Macdonald are Settled with other Scotts Emigrants, two hundred of whom Agreed to join me when called upon, with many Others I bespoke as I traversed the Country—From the Mohawk River I directed My Course for Boston thro' frost Snow & Ice, in the very worst weather that was in the Winter, but arriving at Boston found nothing could be done untill the Answer from G Brittain was come to hand, therefore returned home to Staten Island. In this Circuit of About Six or Seven hundred Miles I found the Spirit of Rebellion & treason blazing everywhere—The People constantly exercising themselves to Arms, Liberty Poles erected Allmost at every Mile end, but at same time I Met with Many Attached to Government, tho but few in the Comparison."

Writing at Halifax to Major Small, on July 26, 1776, Captain McDonald tells of commanding a force going out to meet the Lieutenant-Governor at Covegate. "When I return," he says, "I Expect to find a Letter from Major Small upon my table giving An account of the Most Agreeable News, of General How and his Army, Succeeding in all his Undertakings, and next to that, that my wife and Children are well, and Relieved from their distresses and troubles [on Staten Island.] . . . I wish you may get our winter Quarters for the Whole Regt. to be in Cantonments on Staten Island.

"P. S. I almost forgot to tell you, that the Devil had almost entered Into Some of our Young fellows for getting wives, it was with the Uttmost difficulty I saved Lt. Laughlin McLean from destruction, that is to say, from being Married to a girl who had not a sixpence on Earth, its true she is so very handsome that I Could kiss her myself if I was not A married man, however I overset that match for the present."

In a letter to Colonel McLean, Captain McDonald takes occasion to say: "In regard to publick News, the Army is, thank God, going on As we could wish—I refer you to the publick Papers & for particulars to General Howe's two Aids de Camp,

who are Sent home with the dispatches—I hope the Neck of the Rebellion is broke—Now Government will only have to Settle & punish the Americans, for believe me Who knows this People, Lenity will Never make them good Subjects.”

Writing to Governor Tryon, November 26, 1776, Captain McDonald remarks:

“The Next thing I think Myself Entitled to is a Reparation for the damage my Farm on Statten Island Suffered, & I think a patent for Justice Muchero’s Farm is as little as I could Expect As it must certainly be Confiscated, he being the Most infamous & Notorious Rebel in all the Country—& if it is a thing can be done consistently with Law and Equity, I should be Glad to have a Patent or at least a long exclusive Lease that no Person could keep a ferry Any Where over the Kill van Koul from Elizabeth Town Point to Ryerson’s Farm at the Mouth of the Kills opposite to New York—I am Certain this would be Much More Advantageous & for the Good of the Publick As the House which I intended to lett as a Tavern is exactly on the Road leading to the Blazing Star [Rossville] from Paul’s Hook, the Most Conveniently Situated for the ferry & it is one Of the Most elegant houses for a Tavern in All the Country, & for My part I would Allways take Care to keep a clever man in the house Understanding his Business, & that would keep the best things in his way. Whereas a number of pimping houses being kept all Allong that tract afford No Sort of Comfortable Entertainment to Man or Horse.”

[The “Muchero” farm is the present location of Port Richmond. The residence of Judge Mersereau is the old Continental Hotel, which was erected immediately after the close of the Revolution.]

In a letter to Captain McKenzie, written at Halifax November 26, 1776, Captain McDonald mentioned a matter still of public interest:

“One thing more I beg Leave to Mention to You which by the bye I am Affraid will Appear foolish or ridiculous, but still

it runs Strong in my head that After these troubles [the Revolution] are Settled it will be found necessary to have a dockyard on the Continent of America in a More Central place than Halifax, in which case I think there is a Mill pond close to My House on Statten Island which from My Notion of these Matters Might be Made one of the finest dockyards in the World. As it May very easily be made to contain a vast Number of Ships with the greatest Safety, & take in a first rate Man of War—The water may be raised to Any height you please, & at low water there may be one or more dry docks As will be found necessary—I form My Judgment from the Dock Yard at Helvoetsluys, of which this has an exact resemblance in point of Situation—All works of this kind is allways Attended with Expense, but I think this could be finished with less than Any other place I can think of, & in case Lord Howe entertains Any thoughts of this kind & would think this A proper place, I think I Might be of infinite Service in Making a purchase of the Land that Should be found necessary to be bought for the Use Of the Yards.

“In this or any thing of the kind that Should be thought of I depend upon Your friendship, as I have a weak family to bring on, who have Nothing else to depend upon than My honest Endeavours.”

To Pedro de Mendonzo, Captain McDonald wrote, on January 11, 1777:

“Soon after your Departure from us on Statten Island I was forced to leave my family Wife & Children at that Place & join the Army at Boston under the Command of General Gage. This I was forced to do rather than to turn Rebel & traytor to my King & Country or run the risque of Suffering many cruel treatments & Insults from a Merciless cruel ignorant & Mised Rabble. However after an absence of Sixteen Months from my family I joined them about the 10th of August last, when I had the pleasure of finding them alive & in good health Tho’e Mrs. McDonald had rec’d a vast many insults & abuses As far as words and Language & Quartering the Villains in her house

could do But she behaved with an Uncommon degree of Courage & even went so far as when they cursed the King she cursed the Congress to their faces & I had the pleasure of Seeing them Since well drubed Almost in Sight of my own house & after that being totally dispersed so far that the Rebellion is looked upon to be Settled I was order'd here Summer last was a year to the Command a Battalion of a New Regiment.

"If you will be So kind as to send me three or four pipes of the very best Madeira that Island ever produced I shall Send you good Bills of Exchange in Return & if I had a hundred pipes last Summer I could have sold them for Bills of Ex'ge at a good price Amongst my brother offi'rs of the Army. I left New York the Latter End of October last & brought Mrs. McDonald and the Whole family here how long we are to be Stationed in this place God only knows we are sure to remain till May next & Mrs. McDonald will be much obliged to you if you'll send her one or two Boxes Citron & a ten Gallon Keg of the very best Malmasea Wine—all these things I should be glad were Sent in one of his Majesty's Ships of War As I Suppose you will have an Opportunity of Seeing a Great Many of them there.

"After the affairs of America are Settled there will be no less than Thirty thousand troops left in this Country w'ch will Consume a vast Quantity of Madeira & I hope to have it in My power to Serve my friends more than ever."

Captain McDonald writes to an officer on Staten Island, June 11, 1777: "If you are Still on my place in Staten Island as I'm inform'd your Regiment was Station'd there I will be infinitely oblig'd to you if you'l give every possible assistance to my Brother in Law in allowing your men to work in Cultivating the farm Making up the fences &c. as the place has been ruin'd by the troops last Summer."

Four days later Captain McDonald writes to William McAdams, residing on Staten Island, as follows:

"I send you inclosed two Acco'ts with an order to receive their Contents & keep it in your hands till you hear from Major Small

or me only if my Brother in Law to whom I left the care of my farm on Statten Island Should be any Ways successful in In-listing men for this Corps let him have a Little money and will be much obliged to you if you will take a little Concern in the management of that place. Should a little money be wanted for repairing the fences & other Damages done by the troops be so good as to advance it at any rate I am apprehensive that a Great Deal of money may be made on that place if it was properly managed. as matters go at this time."

To Gilbert Meyer Captain McDonald writes: "Use your utmost Endeavors to put the farm in the best order, Especially to have it immediately properly fenced & endeavor to raise every thing that can Command money. You should endeavor to get a couple of Good Gardners & make all the Garden you can—Endeavor to get As many men for this Regim't as possibly you can & keep them along with yourself on the farm close at work until a proper Opportunity will offer to transport them here.

"You will Speak to Jno. Simerson & if he is inclined to dispose of that Small tract of land Between mine & the Mill dam & joining to the tract he Soldd to Mr. Wm. Black As my farm is destitute for want of Water Ill give him as much an Acre for it as Col. Simmons or any other honest man on the Island will think it worth. You will please give my kind Comp'ts to Mr. Charlton [rector of St. Andrew's church] & Colo. Simmons & tell them I beg the favor they w'd assist you in making this purchase & how soon the purchase is secured so that he can't go back from his word I shall order the Money to be pd Upon the Signing & Delivery of the deeds. If the Affairs of America are liked to be Settled this Summer You may expect to see our family there."

Seeking promotion at the hand of Lord Amherst, Captain McDonald wrote:

"Two Years ago I troubled your Lordship with a Letter Solliciting for the Government of Crown Point, to w'ch I was honored with a Suitable Answer by your Lordship—Matters of another kind now Oblige me to repeat the trouble—

"I have been on the most active Services on the Continent of America & in the West Indies during the last war—have been severely wounded & as I never missed an hour of My duty all that time no Command'g Ooff'r Challenged or found fault with me—

"In time of the Stamp Act, I most freely Offered my Service to Gen'l Gage in Case it should be found Necessary to levy any troops in America.

"In October 1774 perceiving the Americans Were determined to revolt, I wrote Major Jno. Small then at Boston, desiring he w'd inform Gen'l Gage that I was Settled on Statten Island & ready to Join the Army with a hundred as fine fellows as ever Carried arms, most partly Non Commiss'd officers & private men Who had been discharged from the Highland Regim'ts after the Conclusion of last War & from the Knowledge they had Acquired of the Country might be found very useful as Guides to conduct Any part of the Army Wherever his Excellency had Occasion to send them or in Any Other way in w'ch they might be found conducive to the Service. . . .

"Accordingly I sent out from Statten Island thro' frost & Snow to the Mohawk river, where there were 200 highlanders who had lately arrived from Scotland Settled on part of Sir John Johnstons Estate & being Chiefly of my own Name I engaged every one of them, Offering a Captain's Commission to the Gentleman who was at their head from thence I returned to Boston making My observations on the Conduct of the Country People as I went along & leaving trusty persons at Diff't Stations to pick up all able bodied & well effected young men Especially Such as had emigrated from the North of Scotland Enjoining the greatest Secrecy as I had been directed.

"Arriving at Boston I reported every thing I had done & Seen to the Gen'l—But no Acco't having then as yet been rec'd from home concerning a plan there was nothing more to be done for that time & I ret'd home to Statten Island—Making my Remarks as I went along, I found the people more violent & Insolent—Nothing but Committees & Liberty poles at every Mile end."

The letter further adds: "Its to be observed that by this time All America had broke out in open Violence & Rebellion—Every friend of Governm't was persecuted & none durst take a Step in favor of Governm't under pain of imprisonm't & unheard of Outrages. This rendered our future Success Difficult & precarious & laid us under the Necessity of Altering the ground of our proceedings—

"I was Sixteen months absent from My family. My place upon Staten Island is totally ruined as well by our own troops as by the Rebels. My Wife & Children were more abused & insulted on Acco't of her being an American born than if she had been from any other Country. Yet she continued a Steady loyal Subject in spite of every abuse or insult they could offer her & She found means to Convey Useful Articles of intelligence to Governor Tryon. Capt'n Hyde Parker & Capt'n Vandeput w'ch these Gentl'n can better relate in short, My Lord, I have been a Capt'n Lieu'l the 5th of Aug'st 1762 A full Cap't in 1772 when all Capt'n Lieul's got Rank Yet after all this My long services & Sufferings what am I? A provincial Capt'n in place of being an olde Major in the Army & may be when these disturbances are over turned ab't my Business without either Rank or half pay a Cruel unjust & unmerited ill treatment should it so happen."

To Gilbert Meyer, who was in charge of the farm on Staten Island, Captain McDonald wrote from Halifax on October 16, 1777:

"My Dr. Gilly: I am much at a loss n't to write to you as you are so neglectful in letting me hear from you how Matters stands with y'rself & place. I am sorry to hear that the Barn is burnt when the Jersey people paid you a visit but this is a trifle in Comparison to other things you Should make it your business to write every Month an Acc't of every thing that passes & w't you wish to let me know Leav'g the Letters with Mr. McAdam in New York who will not miss any opportunity of Sending them."

In a letter to Mr. McAdam, June 10, 1778, Captain McDonald

says: "I understand my place upon Statten Island is totally ruined and as the affairs of America stands at present I dont think it worth while to be at any trouble about the place till they are finally Settled. As to My Acco't ag'st the 7¹st I have taken Care to have it Settled here."

Under date of January 19, 1779, at Halifax, Captain McDonald writes to William McAdam, on Staten Island: "Having wrote you lately I have nothing now to trouble you with but the Melancholy acco't of Mrs. Mcdonald's Death & left me behind a Miserable wretch with five children much at a loss wch way to turn myself to provide for them Shou'd God Spare my life to see them able to do for themselves."

Captain McDonald's Letter-Book contains a great deal of material relative to the troublous times of the Revolution, but we have recorded about all there is of particular interest to Staten Island.

Extracts From the Diary of Lieutenant John Charles Philip
von Krafft, 1776-1784¹

IRA K. MORRIS

John Charles Philip von Krafft was born in Dresden, Saxony, on Thursday, August 21, 1752. He is said to have been of a baronial family, whose seat was at Delitzsch-on-the-Hill, near Leipzig, in Saxony, and to have borne the title of Baron. A drawing of his coat armor, made by himself, has inscribed on its reverse, in his handwriting, "Related to the Princes of Hohenlohe." He was also related to other families of rank, in Prussia and Saxony, and was descended from ancestors who had been officers in the military service of Prussia for generations.

On the 4th of July, 1773, he was commissioned ensign in Major-General von Luck's regiment of fusiliers, in the Prussian army, under Frederick the Great, and on the 29th of December, in the same year, second lieutenant in the same regiment. In the beginning of 1776 he was lieutenant of the second company of grenadiers, in the fusilier regiment of von Luck. The regiment was then stationed at Braunsberg, a garrison town of Eastern Prussia.

During the early part of 1776, becoming wearied of the life of a garrison town, with its dinners at the General's, sleighrides, flirtations, duels with fellow officers, etc., he determined to resign. The king refused his application. Finally, however, he reported for duty for the last time.

After visiting St. Petersburg in his wanderings and refusing a commission in the Russian army he became a volunteer on board an American privateer, bound from France to Philadelphia. After varied experiences and hardships he became a non-com-

¹ Presented in abstract at the meeting of the Association November 20, 1915. Compiled from publications in the possession of the New York Historical Society.

missioned officer in the British army, the Hessian Corps under Knyphaussen, and participated in the Battle of Monmouth and numerous skirmishes in New York State and New Jersey.

In 1783 Lieutenant von Krafft was secretly married in New York to Miss Cornelia de la Metre, the daughter of a widow residing "past the 5th Mile Stone, King's Bridge Road, on New York Island." This occurred without his mother's consent.

It seems to have been his intention to visit his mother, when he sailed for England with his regiment in 1783. Before reaching there, however, he resolved to resign and return to America. After a short stay in England, in February 1784, he boarded the ship *Vigilant*, in the Thames, and on the 11th of March arrived off Sandy Hook and anchored off "Fly Market Wharf" the next afternoon.

For several years thereafter "Mr. de Krafft" supported himself and his family by teaching in New York City. Then he became employed as surveyor and draughtsman to the Treasury Department. When the seat of government was removed to Washington, he went thither with his department and continued in its service until his decease.

He made preparations to go to Germany and claim the ancestral estate, but death prevented on July 24, 1804. He was a man of commanding presence and of fascinating manners. He had a quick temper and was sensitive to affronts. During his military service, 1770 to 1784, he was the principal in about twenty duels, and was several times severely wounded. His descendants have held responsible positions and high rank in the civil and naval service of the United States.

Von Krafft's journal is full of interest to Staten Islanders. On August 23, 1779, with one of the Hessian regiments von Krafft came to Staten Island. All branches of the British army came to New York and vicinity on this day. The Hessian army was fever-stricken, some regiments having over two hundred on sick list. One regiment had not a single man able to serve.

On January 14, 1780, von Krafft says: "In the evening there

was a great alarm to the effect that the Rebels were approaching. Firing was heard on Staten Island (of our troops were there: the Hessian Guard Regiment Bienau, the 57th English Regt., the 54th Rooens Corps, and the R. P. Corps.) Immediately a detachment of Hesse-Anspachers and English numbering several hundred men, was ordered over there. But no ship could cross on account of the ice, neither was it strong enough to march across.

"15 Jan. Sat. They again attempted to get the detachment across, but it was impossible. In the evening a spy had, to our wonderment, succeeded in stealing over from the State of Jersey and from him we learned that the Rebels had arrived in force, that they had set fire to a Jersey magazine and driven away many cattle; but as our men had held out well in the redoubts, the enemy had not been able to gain any advantage, but instead had to leave nearly 100 prisoners behind."

On March 1, 1780, von Krafft was promoted to ensign in Lieut.-Col. Hinte's Company, but with the pay of sergeant.

"In the morning (March 2) we were mustered by an Englishman in the old Eingiessen Church, in which horses or other animals were sometimes kept on the square of Crown (now Liberty) street." [The Dutch Church later became the Post Office, and was demolished for the erection of the building of the Mutual Life Insurance Co.]

"Tuesday, June 6, 1780. On picket reserve. From this day forth I was on the march to Staten Island and New Jersey, until the 24th inst.

"At 3 a. m. an unexpected order came for all to march. I took the necessary steps, gave my money and papers in the safe-keeping of Lieutenant Col. Hinte, and at 10 a. m. we—Donop's regiment—set sail on schooners and shuppen (sloops.) Towards evening we landed on Staten Island. Our regiment encamped around a church-yard and that night I slept on a grave-mound.

"On June 7, Before day-break the whole army, English and Hessians, marched past us. We followed them to protect the

baggage and marched to the narrowest part of the water, [Holland's Hook], where we were to be ferried over to New Jersey. . . . We marched through the pretty little town of Liesbethtown, which is of a long shape, and then I took part in the side patrols. We constantly heard firing ahead of us, and the Rebels gave much annoyance to our army, which numbered nearly 9,000. . . . We encamped in the form of a square in front of the little town, just before daybreak. We had an unannounced number of dead and wounded. The Rebels kept on making attacks all night.

"Sunday, June 18. To-day General Klinton returned from Charlestown, (S. C.) with all the Grenadiers and English troops. These he landed on Staten Island." General Cornwallis remained with his army at Charlestown.

"Thursday, June 22, at 7.30 a. m. I got a furlough from Col. v. Goosen to New York. I went on foot (across a very pretty bridge connecting Staten Island and Jersey. It consisted entirely of sloops and schooners) away to the end of Staten Island, a walk of three hours. Thence I proceeded on a provision schooner to New York where I arrived at 5 p. m.

"Friday, June 23. It was my desire to remain here (N. Y.) longer, but hearing some loud firing in the direction of our camp, and ascertaining from reports that our army had marched further on, I immediately prepared for my departure. My ambition compelled me to go. All flat boats having gone to Staten Island, I got on board a ship that had been ordered to General Knipp-hausen. We sailed at 4 p. m. and arrived towards 9 p. m. near the ship bridge. But after passing the watch ship, it being dark, we ran aground and could not get off till morning at high tide. Here we heard that the greater part of our army had advanced as far as Springfield, but had been obliged to return again.

"Before daybreak the whole army hastened with all possible speed across the ship-bridge. This was then broken up and Donop's regiment had been obliged to stay behind in some ram-parts to protect it. Soon after, he too embarked in flat-boats and,

unseen by the Rebels, crossed to Staten Island. This caused much reflection and wonderment. N. B. While I was sailing from New York I saw all the Grenadiers and English regiments passing from Staten Island in large ships and sailing up the North River, where they landed at Philipp's House and were obliged to pitch a hut camp.

"June 24. At daybreak, looking from our schooner, we saw our whole army on Staten Island, and the rising tide lifting us again we sailed back, landed and I returned to my regiment. A short time after, we marched on, but tonight we were obliged to sleep in the pouring rain.

"Thursday, Sept. 28. To-day some distinguished inhabitants of New York were arrested for having been in correspondence with the Rebels. They were all betrayed, in a list of names, to General Clinton by a deserting Rebel General who had arrived here named Arnold, a German; for the same reason more inhabitant were daily taken to the prison (Provo). An adjutant, Major André of the 54th English regiment of General Clinton, having been sent on a secret errand, was caught by the Rebels and hanged as a spy, which caused much excitement among the English.

"January 6, 1781. At 6 o'clock in the morning, General Clinton went to Staten Island with English Grenadiers, 2 Hessian regiments and other troops, not alone on account of his attempted capture, but among many other things, more especially on account of the rumored mutiny which some regiments of the Rebels are said to have attempted. He sent some parts of them across to Jersey, but they came back a few days afterwards without having accomplished anything of importance.

"March 1. General Clinton had announced in his orders the advantage which the Brigadier Gen. Arnold (who had deserted from the Rebels) had gained in Richmond with the English troops and others he had with him. He had burnt all the stores of provisions and ammunition there and lost but few men.

"Monday, October 8. This morning I went on a 'small tour'

to Morris (Jumel) house, where our Lieut-Colonel still dwelt, to report a soldier to him for an offense. At 10 o'clock the English prince passed our regiment to view the line, where he was saluted from the fort with several guns. . . . General Clinton met me on the way there.

"Friday, October 12. The above mentioned troops on Staten Island went on board the men-of-war and transport ships, even the Prince and General Clinton accompanying them.

"Wednesday, October 24. All day and night we heard loud an continuous gun and musket firing by the Rebels, the origin of which we at first did not know. But shortly afterwards we heard with sorrow that the otherwise so celebrated Gen. Lord Cornwallis had been taken prisoner by the French and Rebels in the South, where, besides the English, also the Hessian Bose and Erb Prinz regiments were captured, and it was not wrong to conjecture that Savanna would soon follow in this pitiful run of ill-fate. It afterwards was deserted by our troops. Lord Cornwallis soon after came on parole to New York and from there to England.

"Saturday, December 8. This morning Col. Heymel unexpectedly had me called from the watch, and only he who had been in like circumstances, as myself, can feel as I did when, with a frank, cheerful face, he handed me a commission as Ensign, from Cassel, in Bose's regiment, with monthly pay from October 1st."

Von Krafft lived a checkered life throughout the remainder of the war. Much of his time was spent on Staten Island. He gives an interesting account of the departure from America.

"Sunday, November 23. We lay quietly on anchor hourly expecting orders to set sail. The city was full of Rebels, although all the watches in the city were still occupied by the English, and it was said that we were to lie at anchor until their embarkation. Several orders were given relating to signals and in regard to setting sail, which latter, however, was as yet prevented by contrary winds. In the night time, between 11 and 12 o'clock, a terrible fire occurred in New York. Then the ringing of alarm

bells and the uproar made by the disgustingly drunken sailors of our ship who had been in the city until late, made it quite a restless night. The fire continued until 3 in the morning, when we could see no more. This noon we saw the American soldiers take possession of Paulus Hook [Jersey City].

"Monday, November 24. During the fore and afternoon several ships of our fleet sailed, but not further than Staten Island. N. B. We subaltern officers had no other duty on ship than inspection of the watch, and giving out provisions, which every other day fell to me and to today for the first time.

"Tuesday, November 25. This morning signals were again given from the Commander's ship, whereupon at 10 a. m. our ship, with the tide and good wind, sailed as far as Staten Island near Kohl's ferry, 10 English miles from New York, where we anchored again at 11, at a given signal from the agent's ship. Here we saw several sloops with English troops and baggage arriving from New York at Kohl's ferry and debarking there, probably, as had already been rumored, to embark there as soon as the expected ships arrived.

"My whole heart is full of sadness when I see fading from my view the receding landmarks and housetops, in whose midst I leave my whole happiness behind me. At 2 p. m. the anchors were again lifted and we sailed with our beylot [pilot] as far as the bar at Sandy Hook arriving there at 3½ o'clock in the afternoon, when the pilot left us. I entrusted a letter to him addressed to David Bergen at York. Here we met some ships coming from Halifax and some from London. They were transports coming to get the remainder of the troops in New York. We had west wind. The night was somewhat dark.

"Wednesday, November 26. This morning we saw our whole fleet consisting of 14 ships at different distances around about us. The Agent's ship which was nearest to us, had taken in most of its sails, probably in order to await the Commander whom we had not seen since leaving New York; accordingly all the other ships had to take in sail. Without knowing anything certain we

followed the Agent's ship and hoisted sail about 10 o'clock a. m. but with very light wind.

"At 8½ a. m. we met a ship coming from Halifax. At 12, noon, we were 60 miles from Sandy Hook, but there was a great calm and we had drifted towards the South and accordingly felt warm. Our whole fleet was together, which looked fine. After 4 we spoke three ships from England on their way to New York, which intensified the anguish of my heart nigh unto despair. We had bad weather and contrary wind which increased during the night."

"Thursday, November 27. In the morning I began to get sea-sick, because the storm constantly increased and it became so violent towards night that the captain himself said he had never experienced a greater storm. As we were driven towards land and were not more than 40 miles off, our destruction was inevitable, if the storm continued. On deck a cow, 4 sheep and two pigs and about 30 fowls were killed owing to the cruel tossing and pitching of the ship. In our cabin everything went to pieces and was afloat, which was attributable to the negligence of the ship's captain, Thomas Patter of London; but at last Heaven came to our rescue. The storm abated and we got a favorable wind."

And so by this rude diary we get a glimpse of the closing scene of the American Revolution. As before stated, however, von Krafft returned to America in time, and became an efficient official of our Government.

An Interesting Old Publication¹

ARTHUR HOLLICK

Among recent donations to the library of the Association is a complete set of an old monthly magazine² which comprises four semiannual volumes, beginning January 1851, and terminating December 1852, when it ceased issue in its original form and became a weekly newspaper under the title *The New York Republic*. It was the organ of the Order of United Americans, which was instrumental in forming the American party in politics and in keeping alive the objects and aims of the Native American or Know-Nothing party.

There were evidently two chapters of the order on Staten Island, Pavonia, No. 32, at Rossville, and Huguenot, No. 42, at Port Richmond, as may be ascertained by consulting the directory of chapters. The former met on Saturdays, the latter on Fridays. Membership lists are not given; but in the list of officers, published in the issue of December 1851, the names of Jesse G. Oakley and Charles A. Dusenbury may be found in connection with Pavonia chapter, and Selden Pratt, Edward Jones, and Jacob Lane in connection with Huguenot chapter.

On page 191, volume 1, April 1851, is the following note: "We had the pleasure of visiting Pavonia Chapter, at the little village of Rossville, Staten Island, for the purpose of installing officers at the March term. We found the Chapter in a most prosperous condition, and the brothers all devoted to our principles. With the aid of Huguenot Chapter, at Port Richmond, they will take good care of Richmond County."

In 1852 the officers of the chapters were J. G. Oakley for Pavonia and E. Jones, J. Lane, and J. Davis for Huguenot. The titles of the officers are not given.

¹ Presented at the meeting of the Association November 20, 1915.

² The | Republic | A | Monthly Magazine | of | American Literature | Politics & Art | Thos. R. Whitney, Editor | New York | 100 Nassau Street. This set was presented by Mrs. E. Blake. (See p. 109.)

Of immediate interest to the Association is a half column review of Durant's *Algology*, on page 88 of the issue of February 1851, of which unique work we are the fortunate possessors of a copy.³ The reviewer comments on "the immense application required to produce such a work in perfection" and concludes that this "necessarily limits the edition to a very small number, most of which will, doubtless, be absorbed by the scientific institutions of the country."

At this period in our national life political and religious feelings were intense and the resulting discussions and controversies were exceedingly bitter. Every issue of the magazine contains something of this character, dealing with secession, slavery, the restriction or extension of suffrage, the "free soil" issue, the influence of the Roman Catholic Church in political and school affairs, women's rights, spiritualism, etc., and anyone who may wish to obtain interesting sidelights on the events, the passions and the tendencies of those turbulent times can find them in abundance in both the magazine articles and the editorial columns.

In discussing New York City politics mention is made of "the Society of Saint Tammany, a society formed *originally*, upon principles similar to those of the Order of United Americans. The old Constitution of the Tammany Society forbade the admission of foreigners to its council fires. . . . Foreigners have not only entered the wigwam, but they have been made sachems, and presided over its councils. . . . There are strange faces in the Lodge and the brethren are scattered afar. The glory of the old wigwam is departed."

In the issue of March 1851, is an editorial on Free Schools from which the following is abstracted: "It is well known that, by a law of the Legislature of New York, the People of the State were called upon, at the last Election, to declare, through the ballot-box, whether or not they wished to continue the system of Free Education then existing . . . a triumphant majority of

³ See A Quaint Old Work on Seaweeds, *Proc. Staten Is. Assoc.* 5: 85-91. Oct. 1914-May 1915.

some thirty thousand votes, told the Legislature that the school law *must not* be repealed, and the system of *education, free to all*, must be continued."

The pursuit of the almighty dollar was rebuked even in those days, but from a different angle than in recent times, viz.: "I tell you, while you are pursuing, catching, hoarding money, Jesuitism, *i. e.*, POPERY AND DESPOTISM, is filling your green fields, your valleys, your mountains, with its schools . . . and if ye pay not more attention to the education of your children, in the right place, and less to traffic, ye will spend your profits beneath a monarchy, and be led to the altar of forms and ceremonies of Romanism, by your offspring."

Economic conditions, and the relation between producer and consumer, were sources of concern for the future at that time as they are today. The teachings of Malthus and anxiety in regard to unrestricted immigration form the basis of more than one article, of which the following abstract is an example: "It is true that we have millions of unploughed acres—sufficient to make our country the garden and granary of the world; but if these acres are made to teem with human beings, most of whom must, of necessity, become consumers instead of producers, (because the ratio of productive land necessarily lessens with the increase of population,) it follows that, instead of feeding the world, we shall ourselves be dependent for sustenance on other nations. And to this condition it is possible to arrive in *eighty years*, unless, like the Chinese, we consent to feed on rats and offal. . . . Our population . . . is doubled every twenty years, whereas immigration has, for several years past, more than doubled *every five years*. The deleterious effects of this ceaseless avalanche of ignorance and superstition, upon our social and political existence, are already seriously felt . . .," etc.

The necessity for nonpartisanship in municipal affairs was urged, as in our campaigns of a couple of decades ago, by the Good Government and Citizens' Union parties. Under the caption A MUNICIPAL PARTY the editor says "this is something that

is greatly needed at the present time by the tax-burthened, rowdy-ruled citizens of this great but misgoverned city. By a *municipal* party, we mean one that will be independent of the political issues of the nation, and give its attention solely to the management of our own municipal affairs."

There is also vigorous denunciation of the aldermen and magistrates "who are given to the habit of releasing rowdies and rascals from the clutches of the police, because just now the electioneering campaign commences, and the huckstering politicians . . . are becoming exceedingly amiable towards that class of their constituency. A bully or two in a ward are as pearls above price at an election. . . ."

Evidently Sunday was not quite the day of recreation then that it is now, as may be seen from the following item: "DESECRATION OF THE SABBATH.—It appears that the Directors of the Long Island Railroad are making an effort to have their cars run on the Sabbath; in reply to which, the Brooklyn *Evening Star* makes the following appropriate remarks: 'In the progress of the age, nothing has been rendered clearer to the vision of the American people, than the fact that the observance of the Sabbath as a day of worship and repose is the greatest of their privileges . . . we believe that nine tenths of the community are favorable to the entire avoidance of all business and the suspension of travel on Sunday. . . .'"

Certain of women's fashions in dress also come in for condemnation and satirical comment, as follows: "The ladies of the Commercial Metropolis, despairing of ever getting clean streets, through the medium of corporation brooms, have taken the matter into their own hands. The sidewalks and crossings, instead of being swept by the *sans cullottes* offspring of poverty, are now cleansed by the fashionable ladies, who carry home, under their long skirts the street gatherings of their promenades." Germs and bacteria were apparently unknown, although they were undoubtedly present in even greater numbers than in these days of clean streets and short skirts.

The editor, however, evidently believed in preventive medicinal treatment, inasmuch as we find under the BUSINESS NOTICES a reading advertisement which boosts "A Good Tonic" in these words: "'Take a little wine for thy stomach's sake' is a scriptural maxim. . . . With due deference to the old maxim, however, Dr. Thomas Blake recommends for the same purpose a little of his 'Aromatic Bitters,' of which there is no fear of taking too much. We are but one of many thousands who can testify to its excellent tonic qualities."

Some of the articles on the, at that time, beginning of woman's struggle for recognition as a responsible human being, are somewhat similar to recent editorials in the New York Times, or to expressions of opinion from Elihu Root and Everett P. Wheeler, and are equally amusing. Under the caption WOMAN, for example, may be found the following:

"Our theme is *Woman*, and a beautiful and glorious one it is.

"What a brilliant subject for contemplation! Woman! created by an All-wise Ruler of the Universe, as the companion of man. . . . And if it has not been so ordained that she can take part in national affairs, or that *her voice* can be heard in the halls of legislation, she nevertheless exercises a controlling influence, in cementing in indissoluble bonds our common country; for her motto is—

'United we stand—
Divided we fall'

. . .

Much has been said about 'Woman's Rights.' Without a wish to make a *noise* as to what constitutes these 'rights,' we will endeavor to point out a few of them. If married she has the 'right' to dandle her little ones on her knee, or sing them to their rosy slumber. . . . It is her 'right' to repair to the hovel of woe, seek out the wants of the destitute, and spread bread on the empty tables of the famishing, etc., etc. . . .

"Woman! for thy convenience and comfort there was launched at the creation of the world, from the workshop of the greatest

Architect ever known, an elegant ship for thee to sail in on the boisterous sea of life. 'Tis the ship Matrimony; and when *well man'd* and laden with *perfect love*, cannot fail to make a safe and prosperous voyage, etc., etc."

Under "CHIT-CHAT WITH READERS" the editor discourses as follows on the same subject: "Just now we wish to have a cozy and familiar chat with the ladies. What do you think of the new-fangled notions about 'Women's Rights'? . . . Do you believe you would be happier, or the instruments of greater happiness to others, if you should abandon the scenes of home that you make blessed, and adopt the career of men? . . . Men sometimes get queer notions, and among others they entertain the idea that the great God of Nature adapted the sexes to different employments. . . . Perhaps they are mistaken. Ladies will you give an opinion?"

Apparently no opinions were offered for publication; but subsequently, in the issue of October, 1852, the editor speaks his mind in no uncertain terms, viz., "The 'STRONG MINDED WOMEN' have been holding a convention recently at Syracuse, for the purpose of adopting measures to assert their 'rights' and the rights of their sex. . . . What a pity it is that every woman will not think as they do on the subject! . . . We think that man and woman should be assigned to duty on this terrestrial sphere according to their several qualifications and temperaments, etc., etc."

Weather conditions are also occasionally commented upon and we learn that "on Sunday morning, April 20th [1851], the New Yorkers were called to breakfast in the midst of a thoroughbred snowstorm."

In "A CHAPTER OF BEARDS" we are told that "beards are becoming more fashionable every day among us of modern times, and though the various and fantastic styles which our young blades adopt in their facial hirsute appendages may not yet be in accord with the old fashioned taste which lingers among us, we have no doubt another generation will be perfectly orthodox in regard to these time-honored ornaments of manhood."

In connection with airships the editor remarks: "We perceive that Mr. Rufus Porter has not yet abandoned the project . . . of building a machine for navigating the air against the wind. . . . We are not among those who deny the possibility of practical aërial navigation. . . ."

The great theatrical star at that time was Jenny Lind, and while her popularity did not, apparently, result in having a brand of cigars named after her, the editor notes "all manner of goods and chattels bearing the name of the Nightingale. We have Jenny Lind hats, umbrellas, shoes, cabbages, apples and chestnuts; but the last article that we have seen, laying claim to this popular *soubriquet*, was a Jenny Lind Ash-box."

Incidentally it is interesting to imagine what our modern Japanese residents would think of the following item of foreign news: "The recent movements for sending a fleet to this outlandish empire [Japan], with sealed orders, has raised quite a din among the politicians."

In the issue of June, 1851, there is an account of the great fire in New York on December 16, 1835, with a full-page engraving, which are of interest in connection with the two framed pictures of the conflagration on display in our Museum.

The editor scores the city on having no public library and says "it is true, that in the south wing of the City Hall is a corner dignified with the cognomen of 'the library room.' . . . there is no library there; but in its stead, a beggarly array of dusty cases, into which are *thrown* . . . a few odd volumes of proceedings of the Boards of Aldermen and Assistants, a law book or two, and a large concrete of dust. . . ."

"P. S.—Since the above was written we perceive that the Board of Aldermen have passed a resolution authorizing the Clerk of the Common Council to employ a librarian at a salary *not exceeding \$250 per annum!*"

Records of Meetings

REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 15, 1915

The meeting was held in the assembly hall of the Museum, 154 Stuyvesant Place, New Brighton.

President Howard R. Bayne in the chair and fourteen persons present.

The minutes of the annual meeting of May 21 and the adjourned annual meeting of May 22, 1915, were read and approved.

The secretary read the following proposed amendment to the bylaws, submitted at the annual meeting:

Resolved, That section 2 of bylaw I be and is hereby amended so as to read: "Sec. 2. Regular Meetings: The regular meetings of the Association shall be held on the third [Friday] *Saturday* evening of each month from October to May inclusive,"—the remainder of the section to remain unchanged.

The resolution was voted upon by ballot and adopted—aye 11, blank 1. The president thereupon declared the amendment adopted.

Dr. Arthur Hollick exhibited photographs of Silver Lake basin, taken by Mr. Howard H. Cleaves on October 14, 1915, and described the changes in the vegetation established on the partially drained area since about a year previously. (See this issue, p. 67.)

Dr. Hollick also exhibited a photograph of the cave near the upper end of Little Clove Road, taken by Mr. Cleaves on October 8, 1914, and read a paper on certain geological features and historical traditions connected with it. (See this issue, p. 69.)

Dr. Hollick remarked upon the fact that many fruit trees were in bloom at date on the island and showed blossoms from a pear tree, *Pyrus communis* L., on Stuyvesant Place, New Brighton, collected October 13; also apple blossoms, *Malus Malus* (L.) Britton, collected on October 3 at West New Brighton by Mr. H. Sherman Ingalls. Other members remarked upon having observed the same occurrence in connection with several species of garden shrubs, and it was recalled that similar instances occurred during the autumn of 1895, which were mentioned at the November meeting of that year. (See PROC. NAT. SCI. ASSOC. STATEN IS. 5: 3. November 9, 1895.)

Mr. William T. Davis presented and discussed the features of an old wall map with the title

STATEN ISLAND.
MAP
OF
NEW BRIGHTON, TOMPKINSVILLE,
STAPLETON AND CLIFTON;
SHEWING THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD.
Surveyed and Drawn by C. H. Blood, 1845.
LITH. OF G. & W. ENDICOTT, NEW YORK.

On the map is a picture of the Sailors' Snug Harbor buildings, viewed from Richmond Terrace.

Mr. Davis also presented two old powder flasks, one of copper, machine made, the other a flattened, polished horn with wooden stopper, apparently hand made, and exhibited a third one, made from a natural horn on which

THE

is cut the inscription "D. L. [Daniel Lake] March 20th, 1802."

Mr. Davis also presented a large copper George Washington button, with "G.W." in the center and "Long live the President" around the margin.

The meeting then adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 20, 1915

The meeting was held in the assembly hall of the Museum, 154 Stuyvesant Place, New Brighton.

President Howard R. Bayne in the chair and fourteen persons present.

The minutes of the meeting of October 15, 1915, were read and approved.

Mr. Bayne reported upon a meeting held during the afternoon (November 20) at "Lake Sylvia," New Dorp, on invitation tendered to the members of the Association by Mr. Cornelius G. Kolff. About thirty-five persons were present. Refreshments were served in a tent erected for the purpose and addresses were delivered by Mr. Kolff, Mr. Bayne, Mr. John Martin, Dr. Mary W. Green, and Dr. Arthur Hollick.

The secretary stated that he had received a request from the office of the Borough President for suggestions in regard to suitable names for streets and roads on the island to replace those that are duplicated and for those which may hereafter be laid out.

The president requested Mr. William T. Davis, chairman of the committee on duplication of street names, appointed February 19, 1915, to take the matter up with the proper borough officials.

ANNOUNCED PROGRAM

The following subjects were presented by members of the Section of Historical Research:

1. The secretary exhibited a copy of the first edition of the Richmond County Register, issued in 1862 by Henry E. Tudor, and read a paper by Mr. Ira K. Morris in connection with it. (See this issue, p. 72.)

2. The secretary also read in abstract the following papers by Mr. Morris, compiled from letters and publications in the possession of the New York Historical Society: Extracts from the Letter-Book of Captain Alexander McDonald of the Royal Highland Emigrants, 1775-1779, and Extracts from the Diary of Lieutenant John Charles Philip von Krafft, 1776-1784, in each of which are numerous references to British and American activities on Staten Island during the period of the Revolution. (See this issue, p. 79 and 92.)

3. Dr. Arthur Hollick read extracts from a bound copy of volume 2 of the New York and Richmond County Free Press, issued in 1833, recently presented to the Association by Mr. Charles F. Walter.

4. Dr. Hollick also exhibited and commented upon certain of the contents of a set of bound volumes of *The Republic*, a magazine published in New York during the years 1851 and 1852, recently presented to the Association by Mrs. E. Blake. (See this issue, p. 100.)

5. Dr. Hollick also exhibited five old books, presented by Mrs. Edward Hett, with the following titles:

[1]

PRIMA.

The first things.

Or

Regeneration Sermons.

Delivered by Isaac

Ambrose one of his

Majesties Preachers

appoynted for the

County of

Lancaster

* * * * *

London

Printed by *J. Okes*, for *Samuel Brown*, and are

to be sold at his shop in *Pauls Church-yard*

at the signe of the *White Lyon* and

Ball. MDCXL.

[2]

LEXICON

Græco-Latinum

In

Novum Domini Nostri

Jesu Christi

Testamentum.

* * * * *

Autore

Georgio Pasore.

Londini,

Excudebat *Ed. Griffin*, sumptibus *Josua Kirton*,

& *Samuelis Thomson*, apud quem prostant sub insignibus

regalibus in cœmeterio *D. Pauli.* 1650.

[3]

Heures

Royales,

Dédiées

A La Reine,

* * * * *

A Paris,

Chez *De Hansy*, Libraire, rue de la

Juiverie, a *S. Nicolas.*

Avec Approbation, & Privilège du Roi. 1778.

110 STATEN ISLAND ASSOCIATION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

[4]

SACRED DRAMAS,
Chiefly Intended For
Young Persons:

* * * *

By Hannah More.

Boston:

Printed by Manning & Loring,
and sold at their Book-Store, No. 2, Cornhill.
April, 1801.

[5]

The
Constitution
of the

Presbyterian Church
in the

United States of America
Containing

the confession of faith, the catechisms and the
directory for the worship of God

* * * *

Philadelphia:

Alex. Towar, No. 19 St. James Street

Hogan & Thompson, 139½ Market-St.

D. M. Hogan, *Pittsburg*; D. Woodruff, *Tuscaloosa, (Ala.)*

1834

The meeting then adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING, DECEMBER 18, 1915

The meeting was held in the assembly hall of the Museum, 154 Stuyvesant Place, New Brighton.

President Howard R. Bayne in the chair and eighty-one persons present.

On motion the reading of minutes was postponed.

ANNOUNCED PROGRAM

Mr. Frank W. Skinner delivered the announced lecture of the evening on an Engineer's Notes on Experiences and Observations in the European War Zone, illustrated with lantern slides.

The meeting then adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 15, 1916

The meeting was held in the assembly hall of the Museum, 154 Stuyvesant Place, New Brighton.

First Vice-President William T. Davis in the chair and twenty persons present.

The minutes of the meetings of November 20 and December 18, 1915, were read and approved.

A report by Mr. William T. Davis on suggestions for street names on Staten Island was presented by the secretary and briefly explained. It was prepared by by Mr. Davis as chairman of the committee appointed on behalf of the Association to cooperate with the borough officials in the matter. The report was transmitted to the secretary and a copy of the same was transmitted by the secretary to the president of the borough. A letter of acknowledgment from the president of the borough was read.

Mr. Davis commented briefly on the subject matter of the report.

ANNOUNCED PROGRAM

Mr. Carl F. Grieshaber, representing the Section of Applied Science, delivered a descriptive lecture, illustrated with lantern slides, on certain architectural and other features of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

The meeting then adjourned.

MUSEUM STAFF

Director

Arthur Hollick, Ph.D.

Curators

Howard Henderson Cleaves

Agnes Lyman Pollard

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND ANTIQUITIES

John Quincy Adams, Ph.D., *Honorary Curator*

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHEOLOGY

Alanson Skinner, *Honorary Curator*

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

Philip Dowell, M.A., Ph.D., *Honorary Curator*

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

William Thompson Davis, *Honorary Curator*

James Chapin, *Honorary Assistant*

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY, MINERALOGY, AND PALEONTOLOGY

In charge of Dr. Hollick

DEPARTMENT OF BOOKS

In charge of Miss Pollard